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History professor's book about the life of John Henry gains rapid sales, acclaim
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The Flat Hat

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

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Police admit 3 crimes classified incorrectly

By AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Several on-campus burglaries last year were incorrectly classified as larcenies, a mistake Campus Police plan to correct after The Flat Hat identified several inconsistencies in police reports. Federal law requires that colleges submit annual crime statistics — including burglaries but not larcenies — to the U.S. Department of Education.

Lieutenant John Coleman said that three reports of items missing from students' rooms were classified as larcenies but should have been sent to the Department of Education as burglaries.

Due to the large number of larcenies that are reported, Campus Police Chief Don Challis was not surprised that there were three mistakes.

"There's a margin of error in everything we do," he said. "I was pretty sure we'd find some that were mischaracterized."

According to the website of Security on Campus, a non-profit organization that worked with the Department of Education to develop "The Handbook for Campus Crime Reporting," schools that fail to correctly submit crime data can be fined up to \$27,000 by the Department of Education; however, SOC Senior Vice President S. Daniel Carter said schools with incorrect statistics just need to update their data.

Coleman said he plans to update the 2005 data and go through previous years' crime reports to check for other mistakes. If he finds any, he will correct them and resubmit the data to the Department of Education.

"[There] probably are some [statistics] that need to be cleaned up in our system, but the fact of the matter is, nobody's trying to underreport anything," he said.

The mistakes stem from differences in the way the state and federal governments define burglary. The SOC handbook defines burglary under the Clery Act, a federal law requiring colleges and universities to submit annual crime data to the Department of Education, as "the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft." The first burglary example the handbook lists is "A student living in an on-campus residence hall room with other students reports an item missing from his room."

Carter said that if the student's room is unlocked and the person who stole the item is unknown, the crime should be classified as a burglary. If the missing item was stolen by someone who had a legal right to be there, like a roommate, the crime should be classified as a larceny. And if lawful entry cannot be proven, the crime should be classified as a burglary.

See **CRIMES** page A5

College leads in 2006 political donations

W&M, led by Rapoport, sends \$172K to 2006 campaigns, 8th highest in nation. Only \$400 goes to GOP.

By MORGAN FIGA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

According to a recent study by the Center for Responsive Politics, the College ranks eighth in the nation among individual contributions from employees. During the 2006 election cycle, employees of the College and their families gave at least \$172,800 to federal candidates and parties.

An overwhelming majority of the funds, \$156,400 or 90.5 percent, went to Democrats. Only \$400, or 0.2 percent of donations went to Republicans. The remaining donations went to independent or third-party candidates.

Government Professor Ron Rapoport

and his family accounted for \$167,400, or 96.9 percent, of the total donations given from College staff to Democrats. According to rankings from the CRP, Rapoport was ranked as the 28th largest individual campaign donor in the country for the 2006 campaign cycle.

Massie Ritsch, communications director for the CRP, said in an e-mail that Rapoport's large donation was the only reason the College ranked so high.

"The Rapoport family — the professor, his wife and what appear to be two daughters ... they're big givers in the relatively small universe of political contributors," Ritsch said.

Ritsch said that Rapoport's wife and daughters are included because they did

not list an employer.

Rapoport could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Of the 20 schools in the report, the College gave the least to Republican donors. The University of California Berkeley, which ranked first in total donations, gave 87 percent to Democrats and 12 percent to Republicans. Other schools on the list gave between three and 50 percent to Republican candidates.

Government Professor John McGlennon said it is not unusual for colleges to give more money to Democratic candidates because college professors are typically more liberal than the general public.

The College also made the list in 2002, ranking 13th over all with all the donations were given to Democratic candidates.

McGlennon pointed out that universities with more conservative leanings still

give more to Democrats than Republicans. He pointed to Stanford University, which gave 61 percent to Democrats.

He also suggested that the donations could have been to alumni who were seeking political offices.

McGlennon said that the low number of contributions given to Republican candidates correlates to how Democratic and Republican candidates campaign for donors.

"It could just be that there were not Republicans who actively sought funds from faculty and staff," he said. "If they didn't aggressively campaign on campus, no one would give money to them."

He added that part of the reason may be that the college is a state institution, directly affected by state policy.

"That also can shape decisions about donating money," he said.

PATRIOTIC CHRISTMAS



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Colonial Williamsburg held its annual Grand Illumination ceremony Sunday. Fireworks were launched from three locations and thousands of students and tourists filled DoG street.

Early applications fall for Class of '11

By ALINA TODOR
THE FLAT HAT

The College received 904 applications for its early decision program this year, a decrease of 6.7 percent from last year's 969 applications, Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus said.

Despite fewer applications for the Class of 2011, Broaddus described the level of early decision applicants this year as "consistent" with previous years.

Broaddus said that the Col-

lege plans to accept about 310 applicants through early decision, an acceptance rate of 34 percent. Despite a perception among some high school seniors that applying early provides a significant admissions advantage, the College's overall acceptance rate was 32 percent for the Class of 2010, only two points lower than the projected early decision acceptance rate for the Class of 2011.

If these numbers hold, 23 percent

See **APPLICATIONS** page A5

Fox News takes up Wren Cross issue

By ALEXANDRA COCHRANE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Hannity and Colmes, a political debate show on the Fox News Channel aired a five-minute segment about the controversy generated by College President Gene Nichol's decision to remove the cross from the altar of the Wren Chapel. The hour-long debate show features conservative com-

mentator Sean Hannity and liberal commentator Alan Colmes sparring primarily over politics and current events.

The segment opened with a sound clip of the College's Alma Mater and a shot of the cross, which had previously been displayed permanently in the chapel.

See **CROSS** page A4

Fire strikes Blue Talon, Baskin-Robbins

By ALEXANDER ELY
FLAT HAT ASST. VARIETY EDITOR

Shortly before 10 a.m. Wednesday morning, the south side of Baskin-Robbins and the Blue Talon Bistro caught fire, burning a large section of Baskin-Robbins and causing damage to the Bistro.

Firefighters and investigators have yet to determine the exact cause of the fire, although they have been able to pinpoint that the fire originated outside of the building in the corner between Baskin-Robbins and the Blue Talon.

According to Williamsburg Fire Department Captain Chuck White, the fire started in a fenced-in area outside where the Bistro stored used linen napkins before they are picked up by a laundry service.

"The Bistro uses an outside laundry company for their linens," White said. "In the corner, they have a little fenced-in gate where they just dropped [the linens]."

Although authorities have yet to discover exactly what ignited the linens, it is possible a group of smokers may have been responsible for the fire. Winne Porter, a visitor to Colonial Williamsburg, said that he entered the Peanut Shop at approximately 9:30 a.m. this morning. "When I went in, I saw two people

smoking at the corner [in between the Blue Talon and Baskin-Robbins] where the trash cans are," he said. Porter said he then entered the Peanut Shop, and soon after was informed of the fire. "Next thing I know, I just heard 'there's a fire, get out,'" he said.

White said that investigators had spoken to a witness Thursday morning who claimed to have seen people smoking cigarettes in the area before the buildings were evacuated, presumably the same witness who spoke with The Flat Hat Wednesday.

"The witness had spoken with the press, but not with the investigators until this morning," White said.

According to White, all three properties, which also included the Peanut Shop, were occupied at the time of the blaze, although the majority of people inside were staff. "They made a quick attempt at extinguishing the flames and then bailed out," White said. He also confirmed that there were no injuries during the fire.

A Blue Talon employee confirmed that the fire had started outside. Employees of Baskin-Robbins, where the structural damage appears to be much more extensive, declined to comment.

While precise figures of the damage caused are still unavailable, White said that he had heard some estimates of over



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

Firefighters respond to a fire that struck the Blue Talon and Baskin-Robbins shortly before 10 a.m. Wednesday afternoon. The fire caused extensive structural damage.

one million dollars. "We're still trying to get estimates from insurance adjusters," he said.

Large sections of North Boundary and Prince George St. were blocked off throughout the morning. According to White, firefighters finished cleaning up all the hot spots shortly before noon, and

a thorough investigation by local Fire Marshals and other authorities continued throughout the afternoon.

"This is just tragic," President and Chairman of Colonial Williamsburg Colin Campbell said. "We will do everything we can to be helpful to our tenants who have suffered such a serious loss."

Gates, '65, confirmed by Senate for Defense

Gates will be highest ranking College alum in White House

By MAXIM LOTT
FLAT HAT INSIGHT EDITOR

The U.S. Senate voted 95-2 Wednesday to confirm Robert M. Gates, '65, as Secretary of Defense. Gates, who replaces outgoing Donald Rumsfeld, was seen as a consensus candidate and gained broad bipartisan support.

The two Senators voting against him were both Republicans, Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Jim Bunning of Kentucky.

According to an AP wire report, Gates scored points with Democrats by saying that the United States was not winning the war in Iraq. He later qualified that statement, saying we were neither winning nor losing.

"It seems to me that the United States is

See **GATES** page A5

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Men's basketball falls at home to Towson after claiming the W&M Tip-Off Classic Crown. **Page A12**



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Approximately 160 kids from low-income families enjoyed Green and Gold Christmas last Saturday. **Page B1**



REVIEWS:
Jay-Z returns from rap departure with the release of 'Kingdom Come,' an album that reflects his newfound maturity. **Page B4**



Beyond the 'Burg

♦ USC ADMINISTRATION BLOCKS
STUDENT FROM BECOMING EDITOR

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - University of Southern California students, faculty and student journalists around the nation expressed concern and shock Wednesday after the administration said it would block the Daily Trojan's editor-in-chief-elect from taking office.

Zach Fox resigned as editor-in-chief Tuesday after Michael L. Jackson, vice president of Student Affairs, said he would withhold the re-elected editor's application from Media Board approval.

"It tromps all over the reason for having a student newspaper in the first place," said John Kotler, professor of media law at USC's Annenberg School of Journalism.

"How can you have a student voice with the students being throttled by the administration? The [faculty] I've spoken with are outraged."

Kotler said he and other faculty members have asked Michael Parks, director of the School of Journalism, to put the issue on the faculty meeting agenda Monday.

Administrators cited problems with Fox's application as the reason for preventing him from taking office.

Fox's application did not fit the current job description for editor-in-chief, said Lori White, associate vice president of Student Affairs.

"If you apply for a job, you apply for the job as it is. If Zach had wanted to apply for the current job of editor-in-chief, we would have forwarded his application to the Media Board," she said.

The Media Board is an advisory group composed of faculty and students whose approval is required for student media leader appointments. ...

Editors at several college newspapers said complete independence from their universities' administration is vital to their integrity.

William Marra, president of the Harvard Crimson, said editorial and financial independence from the university "is central to our ability to develop our mission." Marra said his newspaper's mission, "to inform Harvard University and the Cambridge community," would be compromised if the administration could choose its editors.

"It has a chilling effect on the reporting on the administration," he said. "You'll be less likely to investigate as thoroughly as a college paper has to. You can't be beholden to anyone -- coverage can lose its integrity."

"USC is backward," said Rachel Kaminsky, a senior majoring in broadcast journalism. "Clearly they want the power to remain in the hands of a few and not in the students."

Student Affairs will hold a special election for the spring 2007 editor-in-chief Friday, after which a new nominee's application will be presented to the Media Board for review.

— By Jeremy Beecher, Joanna Lin & Courtney Willis, The Daily Trojan (USC)

— compiled by Maxim Lott

Senior Class Gift set to break record, \$60,000 raised

The class of 2007 has already contributed \$60,000 to the College, with an 18 percent participation rate. The class is on its way to setting a fundraising record, according to an e-mail that Sam Sadler sent to members of the Class of 2007. No other class has ever raised that much money before holiday break. The goal for the year is to achieve a 67percent participation rate, according to Sadler.

"The Class of 2007 just may well be the most incredible class the College has seen. It certainly is to me," Sadler told seniors. "Private giving is the only way we can be certain of the kind of steady income the College needs if it is to achieve and sustain its place among the best universities of the world."

— by Maxim Lott

Spain may call for the extradition of Math professor

Spain's supreme court ruled Tuesday that war crimes charges could be issued against three American soldiers who fired a tank shell into the Palestine Hotel in Iraq, killing a Spanish journalist and a Ukrainian cameraman. One of those soldiers is Philip De Camp, math professor at the College.

The three could face extradition requests, but the BBC reports it is unlikely that they will be turned over. The United States maintains that the three soldiers thought they were being shot at from the hotel when they fired the tank shell.

— by Maxim Lott

Man who raped student given two life sentences

Christopher Michael Evans, who was convicted of raping a College student near the health center in 2001, was sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

During the sentencing the judge noted that Evans had a long criminal record with one other serious crime, according to the Daily Press. The case went unsolved for four years until DNA evidence linked the crime to Evans. He still maintains his innocence, and has said that he feels sorry for the victim.

— by Maxim Lott

Business School's accounting program ranks in top 25

The accounting program at the College's Mason School of Business is one of the top 25 in the nation according to the Public Account-

ing Report's Annual Professor's Survey, published Oct. 30.

The undergraduate and graduate accounting programs ranked 23rd and 24th, respectively, in what the PAR has called the most competitive year in its 25-year history. Both accounting programs were unranked in the previous PAR survey.

The annual survey asks faculty in schools nationwide to name the undergraduate and graduate programs offering degrees in accounting that they feel most consistently turn out students capable of someday attaining partner status.

"To be considered in the top 25 of both rankings is a true measure of the quality of our program, our faculty and our students," Mason School of Business Dean Lawrence B. Pulley said.

— by Andy Henderson

Business School teams win national competition

Teams from the College's Mason School of Business won top awards at the Deloitte Tax Case Study National Competition. For the second year in a row, the College has swept both the undergraduate and graduate Tax Challenge divisions of the competition.

The College is still the only university to win both the undergraduate and graduate divisions in a single year. This is the sixth win in the last seven years for the College's undergraduate team.

"This history-making accomplishment is nothing short of miraculous," Mason School of Business Dean Lawrence B. Pulley said in a press release. "They remind us yet again of the caliber of our students and faculty and make us all very proud."

The Deloitte Foundation — a nonprofit arm of Deloitte & Touche USA LLP that supports teaching, research and curriculum innovation in accounting, business and related fields — sponsored the Tax Challenge.

Held on the third weekend of November in Orlando, Fla., the Tax Challenge finals put each of the College's teams in a field of six finalists selected from an initial pool of over 40 colleges and universities. Teams had five hours to complete a theoretical case study that required them to analyze information, identify issues and consider real-world challenges. Each team prepared a solution to its case and submitted it to a panel of Deloitte judges for evaluation.

The \$28,000 combined winnings will be divided into \$1,000 scholarships for each student and \$20,000 for the College.

"It took a lot of preparation and the workload was intense, but in the end it was all worth it," Wiggins, a student who took part in the competition, said. "It was an experience that I will never forget."

— by Andy Henderson

WEEKEND
WEATHER

Friday



High 43°
Low 21°

Saturday



High 49°
Low 30°

Sunday



High 55°
Low 35°

Source: www.weather.com

This week in Flat Hat history
1928 Should faculty wear robes?

"Do you think professors ought to wear caps and gowns when teaching classes, as has been suggested?" the Flat Hat asked eight random students as part of the "Inquiring Reporter" feature. Only one student said they should, "for it would lend dignity to the occasion."

1968 Petition to end women's rules

Over 1,000 female students at the College signed petitions calling for the abolition of the dress code and the curfew in place for women's dorms.

1981 Black student enrollment low

Enrollment of black students at the College was much lower than the state goal. Only 44 black students were accepted and enrolled, even though the state's objective was 120.

1985 College ranked 17th in nation

U.S. News & World Report ranked the College 17th among all major universities, based on a survey of the presidents of 1,318 four-year colleges. The College came in just ahead of Cornell, but three places behind U.Va.

— compiled by Maxim Lott

Corrections

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

The Flat Hat

'Stabilitas et Fides'

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POLICE
BEAT

Tuesday, Nov. 28 — Commons Dining Hall staff reported finding a van in the woods behind Busch Field that had not been there before Thanksgiving break. Police determined that the van belonged to the Athletics Department, who said

they had known of its loss for several days but had not yet reported it.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — A student reported that her unlocked bicycle, worth approximately \$100, had been stolen while she was eat-

ing at the Commons.

— A student reported that an unlocked bike worth \$200 had been stolen from the Rec Center. Police searched the area, but did not find the bike.

Thursday, Nov. 30 — A male student was taken into custody near Zable Stadium. He was issued a summons for being drunk in public and for underage possession.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Two students were arrested on Alumni Drive and taken to the regional jail for being drunk in public and underage possession.

— A student on Armistead Ave. reported the theft of his or her unregistered bicycle and iPod. The student did not meet police after calling.

— Students reported that two musical instruments were missing from Ewell Hall that were worth \$7,000 collectively.

Saturday, Dec. 2 — A caller reported that somebody was breaking glass bottles on Landrum Drive. The suspect was gone by the time police arrived.

— Officers spoke to students on Armistead Ave. about excessive noise.

— A caller on Jamestown Road

told police about excessive noise from students on Rolfe Road. The suspects were gone by the time police arrived.

— Four skateboarders, who appeared to be high school students, were seen between Dinwiddie and Gooch. They were gone when police arrived. The event was recorded as a trespass violation.

— Police investigated three female students near the sundial on new campus. One was arrested for being drunk in public and underage possession, then taken to the regional jail.

Sunday, Dec. 3 — A person came to the College Police Department to report a stolen cell phone. The Sprint phone was silver and was thought to have been lost near Unit L.

— Students in Swem study room 327 reported that people in the adjacent study room were being "ridiculously noisy." They said they had tried asking the students in the other room to quiet down, to no avail. A police officer was sent to the scene.

Monday, Dec 4 — A student reported receiving a strange phone call. It was neither threatening nor obscene.

— compiled by Maxim Lott

STREET BEAT :

Who, living or dead, would you want to hear speak on campus?



James Blair. I'd like to know what he thinks about the giant statue of himself on campus.

♦ Justin Yedor, senior



Bill Clinton. I think it would be interesting to hear him speak first hand.

♦ Brittany Hamilton, freshman



Alexander Hamilton, to show Thomas Jefferson what's what.

♦ Kate Lee, sophomore



David Bowie. Interesting sort of guy.

♦ Rich Schaeffer, junior

— photos and interviews by Virginia Newton and Julia Schaumburg

Res Life abandons 6 day work week – for now

Student pro-labor group holds rally after Res Life announces decision

MORGAN FIGA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

This week, Residence Life decided not to implement a new schedule for the College’s housekeeping staff. The plan that was originally supposed to be put into effect Jan. 16 set up a rotating series of shifts to cover residence halls Monday through Saturday. One group of housekeepers would work the current, full day schedule, Monday through Friday. The other group would work the regular full schedule Monday through Thursday, and work only half days on Friday and Saturday. The groups would alternate between the Saturday hours and normal hours.

“We now need to determine if students think there is a need for Saturday services and, if so, how we can provide it without impacting the lives of our housekeeping staff and without the need to impose unreasonable increases in room rates on our residents,” Deb Boykin, head of Residence Life, said.

Boykin and Allison Wildridge, associate director of Residence Life, said that initial proposals to have housekeeping staff on campus Saturdays was due in large part to surveys that expressed dissatisfaction from students on the upkeep of buildings.

Boykin said that the decision to do something was based on voluntary student surveys from the last few years. She said that the most recent survey, administered at the beginning of November, showed that a significant number of the 1,260 students who answered the survey were dissatisfied with bathroom cleanliness and trash removal.

After the survey results, Boykin and Wildridge said a few different proposals were made, including alternating working on Fridays or Saturdays, but the six-day Friday and Saturday half-day week received the best response.

Both wanted to stress that workers would still keep their 40-hour work week and that they are not going to start having housekeeping work on Sundays.

While Westridge said that the initial proposition was not met with an overwhelmingly negative response, workers expressed their frustration with the situation.

Wednesday of this week, students and workers held a rally at the Crim Dell Meadow in protest of Saturday hours. The rally was a celebration of the drop in the policy change, but many who attended also spoke of a frustration with the way that housekeeping staff has been treated in the past. Approximately 100 students and 30 housekeepers on their lunch break attended the rally.

“This is an issue among many,”



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Residence Life workers attended a rally Nov. 29 to protest a decision to create a Saturday workday. The College decided earlier in the week not to implement it.

said Cindy Hahamovitch, a professor of history at the College. She credited the defeat of Saturday hours to student and housekeeping efforts to petition Residence Life.

“This issue show[s] that the only way workers’ rights are going to be protected at the College is if we stand up and fight for them,” said Andrew Schoffner, of the Tidewater Labor Support group, who organized the rally. “When we do that, we win.”

A housekeeper who wished to remain anonymous also said that she felt student support helped stop the policy change.

She said that workers were told Tuesday that Residence Life had changed their minds about the policy.

“I think they were forced to change their minds by the students,” she said.

She added that many workers were frustrated with the policy proposal, but they were afraid to speak out for fear of losing their jobs.

“Working on Saturdays would not make a difference,” she said. “How can you ask so few people to do so much work? It’s not going to be any easier.”

She said that any problems were the fault of having a housekeeping staff that was too small, a sentiment that Schoffner and Hahamovitch echoed.

“They aren’t treated very fair,” Hahamovitch said. “They have to work

Saturdays and even Sundays in the summer.”

The housekeeper said that the staff would be fine working Saturdays as additional hours with paid overtime. She added that the cleanliness of the buildings would be improved if the staff was increased.

Boykin said that increasing the number of staff was not in the budget. Hiring new staff and training them would cause an increase in student room rates.

The housekeeper expressed a continued frustration with the policy. She said that she did not understand the budget constraints or why overtime was not available.

“I don’t know where the money is going,” she said.

Schoffner, who has worked with the housekeeping staff on the issue, said that they did not have a lot of resources at their disposal, but that student voices helped the cause.

“A lot of times you hear, if you’ve got a problem, you’re supposed to go to your boss,” he said. “Nothing has gotten done that way.”

Schoffner said that, should the policy be brought back up, the students and the staff still had “fight left in them.”

Right now, Boykin said that they are evaluating the methodology of this policy.



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Those in attendance at the rally, held in Crim Dell Meadow, displayed signs protesting what they felt was unfair treatment of College employees.

Alum becomes one of Jeopardy’s all-time best contestants

Spoeri, ’87, credits the College for help on some questions

BY JAMES DAMON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Things are looking bright for Jeffery Spoeri, ’87, a College alumnus who just spent a week as the number one contender in the ABC game show, “Jeopardy.”

Spoeri is the most successful contestant this season and the 13th highest ranked contestant in the show’s history.

“I think my [College] education helped me in areas like music and theatre, which are important parts of the Jeopardy game and which I studied extensively in college,” Spoeri said. He also credited extensive performance experience at the College for his ease in front of cameras and a live audience.

According to Spoeri, he “didn’t prepare significantly” for his first performance on the show. Spoeri expects an invitation to “Jeopardy’s” Tournament of Champions competition for returning winners, and anticipates studying everything from Shakespeare to the periodic table of elements to prepare.

Since graduating from the College, Spoeri received an education degree from Vanderbilt University and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He currently works as director of development for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science at Florida Atlantic University.

Spoeri said contestants need more than sheer trivia knowledge to be successful at the popular game show, which has been on the air in its current form since 1984.

He said that a personable and competitive nature was most important in shaping a competitor.

“There were plenty of people in my audition who had the knowledge, but who probably weren’t the kind of enthusiastic, energetic person the contestant coordinators were looking for. You have to remember that they’re not only looking for smart people, but they are casting a TV show. As I said above, I think my background in the performing arts, especially at [the College], was a huge asset for me,” he said.

Outside of his job in University Development for Florida Atlantic Univeristy, Spoeri remains an active member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity. He joined the performance fra-

ternity as an undergraduate at the College. He currently serves as president of his fraternity’s philanthropy, an education fund.

With his winnings, Spoeri plans to pay off remaining student loans, but he has also pledged to donate 10 percent of all winnings to his fraternity. There is no word yet on whether the College will be asking Spoeri for money any time soon.

“I haven’t heard directly from the Development Office at W&M,” Spoeri said. “But as a development director myself, I certainly understand the importance of giving back to one’s school, so I expect to be able to give something to the College in due course.”



COURTESY • JEFFERY SPOERI
Spoeri is the most successful contestant this season.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

Angela Perkey, a sophomore, created the online organization Students Serve in order to provide students at other colleges money to complete summer service projects.

Student starts service project grant website

BY ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The results of sophomore Angela Perkey’s summer Sharpe service project will endure far beyond one season. Based on her service learning experience, Perkey recently created Students Serve, a nationwide program to provide grants to students whose colleges and universities do not provide money for service projects like the College does.

Perkey completed her Sharpe project last summer at her home in Nashville, Tenn. She worked with the Nashville Planning Department to create a program that decreases the factors that encourage obesity in low-income communities, where the obesity rate is higher, by improving walkways and zoning.

“I wanted to incorporate knowledge from [my] freshman seminar, Social Perspectives on Community Health,” she said. “This was a chance to apply my knowledge to my project and community service.”

Students Serve grants money to projects using service learning, like her project.

“I think a lot of people don’t know what service learning is — it’s an integration of academics and service,” Per-

key said. “Service learning projects are well-informed and effective service projects.”

She was inspired to start Students Serve after speaking about her project to friends from high school who are now attending other universities that do not offer such opportunities. While the College offers summer grants for students doing research or participating in some unpaid internships, many colleges do not have similar programs, making it difficult for students who need to have summer jobs to do service work.

“I explained the opportunities I was having, and they were envious, so I researched what kinds of grants other colleges give,” she said. “I found there were none and thought it was unfortunate.”

Perkey started planning last July for grant distribution this summer. The number of grants has not been determined and will depend on the project applications. Grants can range from \$200 to \$2,000, depending on each applicant’s need for money.

Those interested must submit an application that describes their project and how it applies to their studies and future career. They must also include a budget.

Applications can be found at studentsserve.org.

Referendum to ask for flat laundry fee

BY ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The Student Assembly senate’s last meeting of the semester resulted in the passage of a referendum on campus laundry and the introduction of a bill to invite Queen Elizabeth II to speak at commencement.

Sen. Andrew Blasi, a freshman, presented the Laundry Services Room and Board Charge Combination Act, which he is sponsoring. It includes a referendum on the Student Information Network for the student body to vote on whether or not laundry costs should be included in student room and board charges. According to Residence Life, this cost would add \$40 to the current price. Students would also be able to check the status of laundry machines online.

“This referendum is something that is necessary because the Board of Visitors is opposed to this; if any change is to occur, we need statistics and we need support from the BOV,” Blasi said.

Some expressed concern about laundry capacity and the \$40 increase.

“Not everyone washes their clothes all the time. I like the idea, and I like that it’s at other schools and that you can monitor it from a computer,” Senator Orlando Watson, a freshman, said. “But I don’t like that it’s \$40. Why should people that go home every weekend and use their parents’ machines have to pay?”

Sens. Brett Phillips, a junior, and Zach Pilchen, a sophomore, also questioned the problematic laundry capacity, as well as a possible energy problem induced by a likely increase in the frequency of trips to the machines.

However, the bill passed 11-2-3, meaning there will be a referendum to obtain data from students.

The SA also discussed the Queen Elizabeth II Act, sponsored by Senate Chair Scott Fitzgerald, to ask the commencement committee to invite Queen Elizabeth, who will be in Williamsburg for Jamestown’s 400th anniversary, to speak at commencement.

Other business included discussion and amendments of old issues, such as passing the Student Interest Return Act II, the second half of a bill sponsored by Sen. Will Coggin, a senior. Act II called for a petition to the Office of Finance to make sure return interest gained on student money goes back to students and not to the College’s general fund.

Voting on the second part of the bill was put off because a meeting with Vice President for Finance Sam Jones had not yet taken place. The bill passed 16-0-1.

In the review of vetoed and passed legislation, the SA discussed referenda from the Judicial Reform Act, a bill to revise parts of the Student Handbook.

“The bill was vetoed as it was, but the Student Assembly wants to see it continue, so Will Coggin has agreed to redraw the bill and resubmit portions that we are concerned with; those parts are the referendum questions, the changing burden of proof and election of judicial counsel,” student assembly President Ryan Scofield, a senior, said.

They also discussed a referendum addressing the question of whether or not the burden of proof needed to convict students in judicial hearings — currently “clear and convincing evidence” — should be made stricter, and possibly changed to “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

“I don’t think any other higher institutions have that level of burden of proof. Punishments like jail cannot be done by colleges,” Senator Megan McCarthy, a senior, said.

The SA passed an amendment proposed by Sen. Blasi to alter the question asked in the referendum to include background info, as Scofield suggested, to cut down on the possibility that students might be swayed to vote a certain way based on the question.

Freshman Sen. Alexandra Rojas remarked that students will answer from a certain point of view.

“If you’re a student driven by self-interest, you may vote for this, thinking that it make[s] it harder for you to get in trouble,” she said.

The SA discussed part of the Student Organization Funding Act, extensively debating the question of a \$3,000 spending cap on the Executive Appropriations Committee. Scofield and Secretary of Finance Bradley Justus, a senior, said that they understand the bill is supposed to protect against a radical in Justus’s position, but they feel it is not necessary.

“This bill undermines the integrity of the budgeting process. What this would do is take a little bit of autonomy away from Bradley. It is to try to provide a check on someone extreme in Bradley’s position, but we have [Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs] Mark Constantine as a check that already works well,” Scofield said.

The meeting finished with remarks on the semester’s progress.



CASEY SCULLY • THE FLAT HAT

SA senators listen to debate at the SA meeting, where a bill to make laundry free was introduced.

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Hannity & Colmes discuss Wren cross, petition effort

CROSS from page A1

"In a nod toward political correctness, the school has decided the cross should now be removed at various times so as not to offend people of various religious backgrounds who use the chapel," Colmes said as he introduced the segment. "The decision has created controversy among students and alumni who see the cross as an important part of the chapel and the school's heritage."

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Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina spoke to students about her book and her experiences in the business world in the Kimball Theatre in November.

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"My wife accused me of being infatuated, and there might be some truth to that," Powell said.

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She identified dropping out of law school as the first tough choice she ever made, playing on the name of her recently-published memoir, "Tough Choices." Using her from-the-bottom-up career path, from secretary to CEO, Fiorina provided the audience with nuggets of business wisdom, such as "courage is acting in spite of fear," and, "when opportunity

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"I demonstrated I will not be intimidated," Fiorina said of her decision to meet at the club.

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During a question-and-answer session that followed the talk, one audience member questioned the company's controversial move under her leadership to acquire Compaq. Fiorina stuck by the decision and reminded the audience that leaders must "see things before others see them."

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CROSS from page A1

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Under the MICROSCOPE

◆ SKELETON DISCOVERY SIX YEARS AGO IGNITES CURRENT DEBATE

KATE PRENGAMAN
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

A child's skeleton that was unearthed in Ethiopia in 2000 after being buried for nearly 3.3 million years has recently sparked one of the most intense anthropological discussions since the famous Lucy was discovered in 1974. Not only similar to Lucy in frame, this juvenile appears to be a member of the same species, *Australopithecus afarensis*, widely considered a human ancestor. The discovery of the child has lead many to dub the find "Lucy's Baby," even though the new skeleton is tens of thousands of years older than Lucy.

Identified as a girl of about three years, still nursing, the skeleton has been named Selam, which means "peace" in several of the local dialects. According to the original article published in the science journal *Nature*, the well-preserved skull has given scientists an unprecedented opportunity to study the cranial and post-cranial development along the evolutionary trajectory towards hominids.

"This is something you find once in a lifetime," Zeresenay Alemseged, the lead archeologist on the team that found the skeleton, said to *National Geographic*.

Juvenile skeletons are usually a rare find, and one this intact is a surprising first, given the more fragile nature of juvenile bones. The skeleton was well preserved because it seems to have been buried by rapid flooding.

"It was buried just after it died," Zeresenay said. "That's why we found an almost complete skeleton, so maybe [drowning] could be the cause of its demise."

Although the slow and painstaking process of removing the surrounding sandstone from the fossil and preserving the ancient bones is only just beginning, many experts are already debating Selam's structural significance. The *Nature* article clearly describes the ways in which the feet and legs are evidence of bipedal locomotion. However, the shoulder blades show a much clearer correlation with modern gorillas than modern humans, and the fingers are long and curved, suggesting an ability to grasp branches. These upper-body characteristics seem to indicate that *A. afarensis* was well-adapted for life in the trees.

This dichotomy between Selam's tree-worthy upper body and a lower body built for land has many scientists wondering where she fits in on the evolutionary scale. Did the arboreal adaptations simply carry over from ape-like ancestors, or were they still a functioning part of the everyday locomotion of *A. afarensis*?

To Donald C. Johanson, who found Lucy in 1974, the dual adaptations make evolutionary sense. "You don't just magically flip some evolutionary switch somewhere and transmuted a quadruped into an upright walking bipedal human," he told *Scientific American*.

Further work with Selam is expected to add major advances to the study of how our ancestors lived during the thousands of years in which the species transitioned toward a bipedal existence. As that of a juvenile, this skeleton is particularly advantageous because it gives scientists an opportunity to consider not only the species' physical structure, but also the developmental processes.

Other debates continue, including questions about whether or not Selam might actually belong to another species similar to *A. afarensis*, and how the brain developed in these species. In most fossils, like Lucy, the fragile skulls are not intact enough to generate conclusive evidence of exact cranial structure.

As work continues on determining how Selam would have grown up to walk and talk (she has a hyoid, a small bone which anchors the tongue and voice box — one of the first ever found fossilized) we can learn more about how our species evolved from there to here.



COURTESY GRAPHIC + SKULLDUGGERY.COM

This model depicts what skulls of Lucy's race, *Australopithecus afarensis*, would have looked like.

Early decision applications fall 6.7 percent for Class of 2011

APPLICATIONS from page A1

of the Class of 2011 would enter the College through early decision. Broadbudd wrote in *The Daily Press* in October that 33 percent of the Class of 2010 was accepted through early decision.

Broadbudd denied that there was a significant difference in admissions standards between the early decision and regular decision application pools, saying that applying early decision only provides a slight "tip factor."

Broadbudd defended the College's early decision program despite recent announcements from Harvard

University, Princeton University and the University of Virginia that they would drop their early admission programs beginning next year. Harvard used a non-binding early action program.

He said that the cause for the shift away from early decision at some top-tier colleges was that low income families tend not to use the early decision program because they are more likely to want to compare financial aid packages

between schools.

Broadbudd said that he agreed that the early decision program is not right for all families for various reasons, but he said that it is a good program for high school seniors who are certain that the College is their first choice.

"Used responsibly, early decision continues to be a good tool," Broadbudd said. "Early decision works well for the right kind of student."

Police: some crimes misreported

CRIMES from page A1

The three mistakes involve items missing from students' rooms where lawful entry could not be proven. A student reported May 18, 2005, that golf clubs were taken from his room. Coleman said that because it could not be proven whether or not the clubs were taken by somebody who had a legal right to be there, the crime should have been classified as a burglary instead of a larceny.

In previous years Coleman submitted the same data to the state and to the Department of Education, but sometimes changes need to be made due to the way burglary is defined under the Clery Act.

"In the future, I plan to look specifically before submitting to Clery," he said, adding that Campus Police underwent additional training recently on correctly classify burglaries.

According to SOC's website, the Clery Act seeks to standardize the way colleges disclose crime information. It requires colleges that participate in federal financial aid to submit annual crime data to the Department of Education, including reports of criminal homicide, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson. According to the Oct. 23 online edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, the House of Representatives voted twice to include larcenies in the data, but both times the Senate version of the bill was adopted and did not include that provision.

The act also requires that the statistics be public. The College posts them on its website.

Last year, the College reported 14 on-campus burglaries. According to the dispatcher log statistics, which were likely altered later for correct-

ness before submission, 199 larcenies were reported last year.

As of Dec. 3 this year, the dispatcher logs have recorded 167 larcenies and 7 burglaries. Five students reported items missing from their rooms; three of those reports were recorded as larcenies and two were recorded as burglaries. Coleman will review them for proper classification before submission

The Oct. 23 online edition of the *Wall Street Journal* reported that there is a large difference between the number of larcenies at institutions of higher education compared to the number of burglaries. The College was cited as a school with what the

Journal called "lopsided" statistics.

In the Nov. 3 edition of *The Flat Hat*, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler rejected the idea that the College skews its crime statistics. "We're not hiding anything. I think anybody who knows anything about this place knows that," he said.

He pointed out that the Campus Police send all reported crimes, including larcenies, to *The Flat Hat* to be printed in the Police Beat.

Overall, Campus Police Chief Challis was content with the way the College reports crime statistics and with the relatively low number of mistakes. "If we have a burglary, that's what we call it," he said.

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OSVS Spring Break Service Trips (SBST): It's time to start thinking about Spring Break! After Winter Break, sign-up for one of six awesome service trips: **1)** Washington, DC, **2)** Prince William Forest State Park, **3)** Phoenix Project – Petersburg, VA, **4)** Habitat for Humanity – Greensboro, NC, **5)** Habitat for Humanity – Charleston, SC, and **6)** Biloxi, MS. For more information: <http://www.wm.edu/studentactivities/osvs/springbreaktrips.php>

SBST Interest Meeting – Sun, January 28th, 7pm, UC Chesapeake A
SBST Sign-ups – First come, first serve! Wed, January 31st, beginning at 8am. Campus Center 157-158. Trip fee due upon signing up.

Are you interested in purchasing holiday cards to benefit a good cause? Support an International Service Trip! Professional-looking 5 ½" x 4 ¼" holiday cards can be personalized! The four customizable cards can be viewed at <http://www.freewebs.com/cards4kenya/> and will cost \$1 each, with a minimum purchase of 15. All profits will go to benefit a student service trip to Kenya.

If you would like to be added to the weekly volunteer listserv, please email Lauren Grainger (lugrai@wm.edu).

Gates, '65, confirmed by Senate

GATES from page A1

going to have to have some kind of presence in Iraq for a long time," Gates said. "But it could be with a dramatically smaller number of U.S. forces than are there today."

Many Democrats and Republicans said Gates was the correct choice to make progress on President George W. Bush's Iraq policies.

Gates will be the highest ranking College alum in the White House, outranked only by Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson.

Gates, who earned his BA at the College in 1965, was president of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. He was also involved in the College Republicans and worked as the business manager for the William and Mary Review.

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OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Nichol botched handling of cross

Whatever you think of College President Gene Nichol’s decision to remove the cross from the Wren Chapel altar until it is requested, the secretive way the policy change was made is an embarrassment to the ideals of this college. The decision to change the cross policy was made without input from students, faculty or alumni, and was not even officially commented on until media pressure forced a reaction from the president. The College should be a model for vigorous debate and transparency, not a place where decisions are made in the dark with the hope that they will never be brought to light.

The debate over the cross involves our history, our responsibilities as a state-supported institution and the place of religion in the public sphere. It concerns the future of the Wren Building, our most important and recognizable symbol, where freshmen are officially welcomed to the campus and seniors celebrate their graduation with a ring of the historic bell. This volatile mix of issues and symbolism was certain to elicit controversy and passionate opinions in the College community. Despite the obvious importance of this decision, it was made unexpectedly and without debate. There was no indication from the president that he was considering changing a half-century-old tradition, nor any consultation with the thousands of William and Mary students, professors and alumni who consider the Wren Building a symbolic embodiment of the College they hold so dear. The complete dismissal of community opinion is disrespectful to our traditions and ideals, and it has stirred up a deep well of resentment.

Not only was the community’s input never considered, but it appears that Nichol would have

preferred his decision to go unnoticed. The policy change was made without a press release, e-mail to the community or any kind of official word from the president. The change was only brought to light after an e-mail was sent to members of the Spotswood Society, the student group that provides tour guides for the Historic Campus. The Flat Hat posted a story online, which appeared in the next day’s print edition. If it wasn’t for this e-mail, this story might still remain unreported. We felt that this story was important to more than just our on-campus readership, and members of staff began contacting other media outlets, including several blogs and professional news organizations.

The response to our initial story was immediate, and it was soon picked up by dozens of newspapers, websites and television stations across the country. E-mails from concerned alumni and members of the public began pouring in.

The next afternoon, Nichol responded to the public outcry with an e-mail to students explaining the decision and welcoming a “broader College discussion,” but the damage had already been done.

There are only two reasons the president would have avoided announcing his decision until faced with a public outcry. If he failed to anticipate the impassioned response, he is dangerously aloof and out of touch with the community. If he knew how controversial the decision would be, he must have hoped nobody would notice the cross’s disappearance, and that it could be removed without the controversy we are now facing. It is hard to say which is worse: a president who is blind to the values of the College, or one who thinks he can pull the wool over our eyes while he goes about his own agenda.

The College should be a model for vigorous debate and transparency, not a place where decisions are made in the dark with the hope that they will never be brought to light.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to fhopns@wm.edu. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets weekly to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by the Editor or a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

Earning a community

I want to contribute a few points to the dialogue that Sam Sadler urged in Residence Life’s decision to not implement a six-day work week for housekeepers. As reported in Morgan Figa’s article in this issue,



Andrew Shoffner

Sadler claims that he “want[s] to explore as a community” the questions that the proposed schedule change has raised. Now, “community” is a powerful word, and the right to use it must be earned. There are two unacknowledged obstacles in doing so at the College.

First, the administration sets the terms of the dialogue it wants to have. In a meeting with some RAs, Residence Life administrators complained that the proposed schedule change had not been expressed through the “proper channels” (according to an anonymous RA). Presumably, the “proper” channels run through Residence Life Director Deb Boykin’s office. When Ms. Boykin talks in the article about revising the “methodology” of the six-day plan to better determine how residents feel, she sets herself up as the sole arbiter of competing needs and values — accountable only to her superiors in the administration. It is, of course, a mark of progress that she wants to gauge student opinion by a measure more accurate than some multiple-choice survey. But, no matter how the investigation is conducted, at the end of the day she is still the one who chooses the questions and interprets the answers. A dialogue so constrained is no dialogue at all — it is a facilitated monologue. That’s why housekeepers and students needed a rally to express our opposition. We needed a forum of our own.

Secondly, the people who would be most affected by the proposal in question — the low-wage workers — are held on the margins of our so-called community. Their membership is judged by a double standard. On the one hand, they are expected to maintain that warm and special “community” atmosphere of the College. They are to be affable and outgoing. After all, at the meeting where they learned the six-day week would no longer be implemented in January, housekeepers were scolded for not talking enough to students (according to an anonymous housekeeper). They are to take pride in the work they do and the contribution they make to the campus. According to the June 9 issue of W&M News, the College has a ceremonial picnic to congratulate workers for their “character and commitment” every June. On the other hand, they are denied a voice in the community. Let’s not forget that Residence Life’s initial response when housekeepers expressed dissatisfaction with the plan: “If you don’t like it, you can find another job.” I have heard many times — in dorms, dining halls and

around campus — the complaint of the housekeeper in today’s article: workers are afraid to speak out when their job is on the line. If they do have a problem, they are to voice it in their boss’s office, and on their knees. The notion that a dialogue can be held from such a position is ludicrous.

There’s a name for the College community’s double standard: paternalism. I can’t put it better than one housekeeper I talked to about this month’s events did: “They treat us like children. But we are not children.” In a region where paternalistic impulses once served to legitimize the most grinding human oppression, this should give us pause.

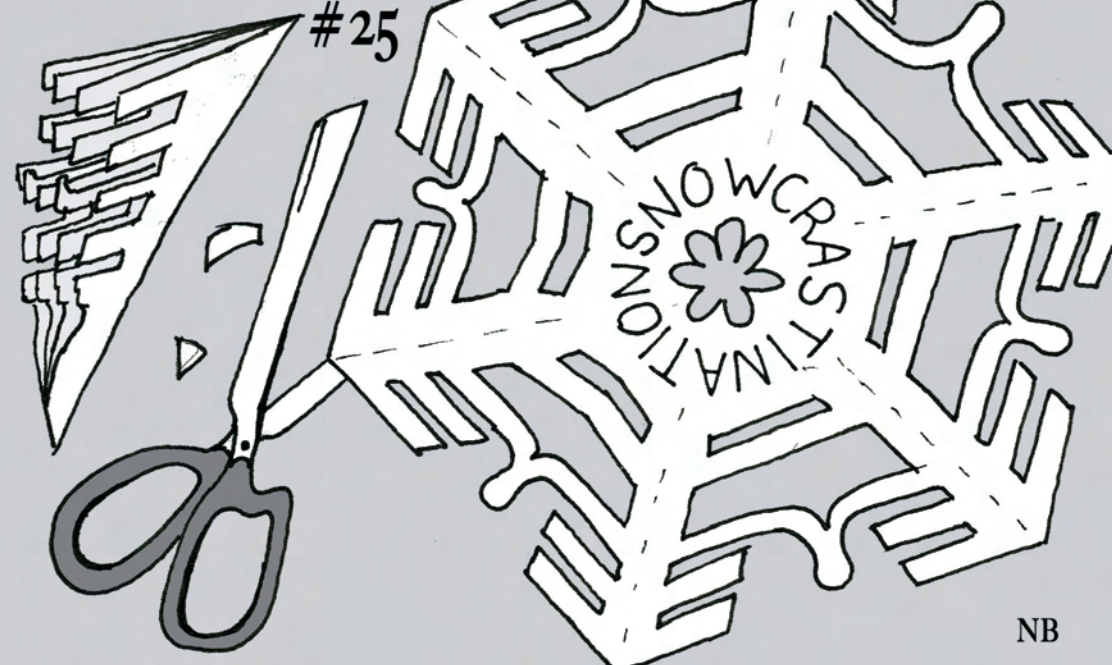
Now, Sadler doesn’t tell us what his community dialogue ought to look like, but I have some suggestions. First, it needs to be inclusive. Workers at the College do contribute something very special, much more than clean floors and hot meals. They should be allowed to contribute one more thing: their voices. Secondly, it cannot be conducted across a power differential, on administrators’ turf and administrators’ terms. The housekeepers have a union recognized by the College. The administration can and should be proactively engaging them in discussions over wages, benefits, scheduling and day-to-day treatment. When you’re stuck at the bottom of the totem pole, collective organization is the only way to get a voice of your own.

After a month fighting a decision that never should have been made, the Tidewater Labor Support Committee is going one step further than suggesting that the administration make good on its promise of dialogue. We’re demanding it. On Nov. 9, we proposed to President Nichol a College policy that would require good-faith engagement with the campus employees’ union and remove the present institutional obstacles to getting a voice on the job. (To see the policy, visit <http://tlabor.people.wm.edu/rto.htm>.) Some 500 students have already signed a petition urging the policy’s adoption. Until the policy is put in place, we will not consider the fight for workers’ weekends won — because the causes of the Residence Life debacle remain unaddressed.

I hope Sam Sadler and his colleague Vice President for Administration Anna Martin (the vice president actually responsible for most staff policies) will reflect on the obstacles to genuine dialogue at the College and take prompt action to eliminate them. If they do not, we can only conclude that the administration’s rhetoric of community is disingenuous — a cheap trick to preserve the status quo. If they do, then we can begin to build a community that truly merits the name.

Andrew Shoffner, a member of the Tidewater Labor Support Committee, is a senior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

HOLIDAY STRESS MANAGEMENT METHOD....



A stricter standard

Given the poor representation of women in the Student Assembly Senate, it is unusual for the female Senators to vote together as a block — there are only four of us in a body of 22, so we don’t have much



Meghan McCarthy

sway when it comes to majority votes. However, last Tuesday’s consideration of the Judicial Code Reformation Act produced this Senate’s first ever gender-split vote; with three women voting against the bill, one woman abstaining and all but one man voting in support. The cause of this division seems, at first glance, somewhat innocuous: a proposal to change the burden of proof in College judicial cases from the currently used standard of “clear and convincing” to the stricter “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Initially this can sound like a good idea — if it’s a higher standard of determining guilt, why not apply it to the College’s judicial proceedings? There are several reasons.

Firstly, the use of this stricter standard is inappropriate because the penalties of College judicial proceedings do not justify its use. It is the burden of proof used in criminal courts in the United States, and simply stated, it means that a judge or jury must be sure, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the defendant has committed the crime. The exactness demanded by this burden of proof is necessary because the defendant faces, if found guilty, a sentence that will lead to the deprivation of life or liberty. From a legal standpoint, College punishments, up to and including expulsion,

are incomparable with imprisonment or loss of life.

Secondly, the College does not have the resources to investigate crimes and prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. For this to be possible, the College would have to conduct investigations as actual prosecutors do, which would require everything from police and investigators to expert witnesses on DNA at their disposal. However, College officials explicitly told co-sponsors of the bill that the College could never have the capacity to collect the evidence necessary to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. No institution of higher learning in the United States uses beyond a reasonable doubt as the burden of proof for internal judicial cases, and for good reason.

Beyond being inappropriate and impossible, it was the spirit in which this proposal was made that makes it so offensive and, I believe, caused the vote to split between men and women. The act’s original sponsor and author, Sen. Will Coggin, has a well-established and public history of disagreement with the College’s management of sexual assault cases. I have little doubt that many of these reforms were intended to make the prosecution of sexual assault cases more difficult. The College’s judicial system is by no means perfect, and student-led attempts for reform are a step in the right direction. However, if we truly want to reform our judicial processes for the better, specifically in regard to sexual assault cases, we must start with un-biased perspectives and propose changes that are realistic and just for all students involved.

Meghan McCarthy, a Student Assembly Senator, is a senior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

The value of ethics

Many of us were familiar with the name Hans Tiefel even before we arrived in Williamsburg. Touted as the College’s toughest professor and instructor of five religious ethics courses, Tiefel was



Ethan Forrest
Joanna Greer

a symbol of academic rigor. He taught ethics in the Religious Studies department for 30 years; he was a hallmark of the discipline’s dedication to cultivating scholars endowed with a deep sense of social responsibility. He once remarked to his students, “I think one of the great things about teaching at a place like this is that you run into some really good human beings. We’re not all exceptionally smart, but we can be good.

There is a difference between being smart and being good. Sometimes at William and Mary they occur together, and that is really splendid.” When Professor Tiefel retired two years ago, the College lost not only one of its finest professors, but an entire discipline. It has recently come to our attention that the College does not plan to renew a permanent ethics position in our department of Religious Studies.

This could not come at a worse time. In our world today, decisions are often made globally. Throughout history and in the present world, humans have sought ways in which to live peacefully, harmoniously and richly. Developing an ethos of social responsibility is integral to a just and flourishing community. It demands that we constantly assess not only our current role in the world, but also our future course.

To that end, it is a mistake for the current administration to conceive of holistic liberal education without ethics. Removing ethics denies the social motivations imparted in its own mission statement: “The university recognizes its special responsibility to the citizens of Virginia through public and community service to the Commonwealth as well as to national and international communities.” Seeking to fulfill its social responsibilities, the College instituted General Education Requirement 7. This last and arguably most important GER requires every undergraduate student to take a course in Philosophical,

Religious and Social Thought. “Not only must the course deal with matters of enduring concern to human life, such as meaning, value, justice, freedom and truth, but it must also aim at cultivating reasoned analysis and judgment in students who take it.” To remove the religious component of this requirement is to discredit the value of religious discourse to a fully realized liberal arts education. Moreover, denying the study of ethics in a religious studies context is to discount a profound facet of our human endeavor. Doing so limits our conception of what it is to live a good human life.

As graduating Religious Studies majors, we have experienced the challenges and the rewards of studying ethics in this context. Religious ethics brings the living religious traditions to the forefront of the political and social struggles that face us today. It challenges us to view the world from outside ourselves, to question what it is to be good, to know good and to achieve good. We are not solely concerned with how this loss may affect the Religious Studies department as a complete body of scholarship. Rather, we are doubly concerned that the College stands to lose this essential discipline forever. If the College loses the study of religious ethics, it denies its responsibility to cultivate well-rounded and ethical members of society.

This choice also has practical implications for our futures as students. Many professional and graduate schools have already noted the importance of ethics in education. At a time when these schools are increasingly demanding ethics courses as standard curriculum, the College places its undergraduates at a grave disadvantage. For example, each of Harvard’s prestigious graduate and professional schools officially incorporates ethics as a part of its educational philosophy.

With all of this in mind, it is our sincere hope that Provost Geoffrey Feiss and Dean Carl Strikwerda of Arts and Sciences will reconsider their choices regarding the role of ethics in Religious Studies by hiring a permanent professor of ethics in the department of Religious Studies.

Ethan Forrest and Joanna Greer are seniors at the College. Their views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

The threat of technology

Technology began with the first crude tool fashioned by man. From that moment until the late 18th century, it advanced at a sober pace. But the Industrial Revolution set technology off on a crash course, like that of a snowball rolling down a mountainside: ever growing in size, ever gaining in speed and ever less inclined to stop for those who willfully obstruct its path.

In the Nov. 17 *Confusion* Corner column, senior Lauren Bell observed correctly that students at the College “can’t live without” our cell phones. I hereby broaden her statement and say that our whole society has come to depend on the cellular phone, and practically overnight.

The case reminds me of a great movie called “The Gods Must Be Crazy.” It tells the story of N!ke, a Bushman of the Kalahari, who one day comes upon a strange and beautiful object unlike anything he has ever seen. The “thing,” as N!ke calls it, proves to be a real labor-saving device for him and his fellow Bushmen, mainly because it is harder than anything found in their desert habitat. The “thing” becomes so useful that everyone soon seems to need it all the time. The hithertofore cooperative Bushmen argue and even grapple with one another over this wonderful new tool (which any “civilized” viewer recognizes as a discarded Coke bottle). “Something they had never known before had become a necessity,” observes the narrator of the film. And such is the case with our reliance on cell phones.

The columnist also stated that our gadgets transpose us from the real world to the “insular world of technology.” This idea is discussed in “My Dinner with Andre,” a cult film that consists entirely of a conversation between the two writers Andre Gregory and Wallace Shawn (of “The Princess Bride”). At one point, Wally tells Andre about his new electric blanket and insists that it affects the way he sleeps, the way he dreams and even the way he feels when he gets up in the morning. In response, Andre suggests to Wally that his blanket “separates him from reality in a very direct way.” Insulated under that

blanket, Andre goes on to say that Wally will forget he ever struggled to keep warm in winter. He will lose what sympathy he has for people who still face that struggle. “You like to be comfortable and I like to be comfortable too,” Andre concedes. “But don’t you see, Wally, how comfort can lull you into a dangerous tranquility?” Indeed, with the mere flip of a switch, Wally can insulate himself from the forces of the seasons.

We so often hear technology described as a harbinger of new freedoms that we fail to see how it can do just the opposite. The World State of Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World” sustains itself simply by keeping its subjects occupied. It provides them not only with leisure time but with the forms their leisure takes. Sports, for example, remain popular in the World State, though we would not recognize any that they play. Theirs are, without exception, outlandishly technological, and not by coincidence: the more machinery and high-tech equipment required by the game, the greater the levels of consumption and production required to play it. The people thus enjoy themselves and stimulate the state’s economy all at once; all parties seem to benefit. But the subjects of the World State know no pleasures besides those provided for them, and all of these are calculated both to gratify and to arouse the desire for further gratification. They have been deliberately reduced to the sum of their basest desires by a state that happily gives them their fixes. Most tragic of all, they adore their condition. They see their servitude as freedom.

I, for one, agree with Aldous and Andre: technology poses a threat to humanity — our humanity, as individuals. If everything is easy, quick and convenient, it follows that nothing is difficult and that nothing involves struggle nor demands our fullest commitment. I do not mean to suggest that I regard technology and humanity as irreconcilable; so long as we keep our eyes open and our minds active, we have nothing to fear. And in case of doubt, we might ask ourselves this question: can we handle solitude? Those among us who cannot bear the company of their own minds, consider the possibility that something of paramount importance has been stolen from you.

Clint Condra is a senior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Ignorance is not bliss

I will remember Nov. 7 for the rest of my life. The commonwealth of Virginia, the place that I’ve called home for the latter half of my life, voted on a referendum regarding my lifestyle and

I lost. Virginians voted 52 to 48 percent in favor of the Marshall-Newman Amendment. Yes, that amendment, the one better known as the “gay marriage amendment.” Given the past few weeks to think it over, though, I don’t think I’ll remember that day simply because my lifestyle lost in a referendum, but because of the mistakes I made that day.

My first mistake: I had the hope that Virginians would move past their homophobia. It’s been hard for me to dress it up differently, not take it personally and approach it from a mature, rational point. Yes, I know that Virginians have traditionally voted conservatively. Yes, I know that I probably shouldn’t have expected Virginians to vote “no,” but I did. I had hoped that just maybe Virginians weren’t the hateful people that we’re known to be. I’m left feeling hurt and angry. I’m left with little else but one big question: Why am I so terrifying?

And all I get is silence from a mass of bigots. This was my second mistake: I expected Virginians to grasp how this poorly-crafted piece of so-called legislation would harm those people who aren’t even involved in the scramble to “protect” marriage. I wonder if people read the last three sentences, the three sentences that actually took rights away from non-married, heterosexual Virginians. There are hundreds of thousands of heterosexual Virginians who aren’t married. Where will their

protection from domestic violence go? Out the window. What will happen to these people’s children? Who knows. Where will their hospital visitation rights go? Down the drain. Where will their ability to formulate contracts that, as the Marshall-Newman Amendment says, “intend to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effects of marriage” go? In the trash. I’m left with another question: What will happen to these people?

And all I get is silence from a mass of ignorant voters. The Marshall-Newman amendment has passed. I hope you know what that means. Our Bill of Rights now contains institutionalized discrimination and I’m desperately fumbling around in an effort to be the bigger person. I’m left with my final question: Where do we go from here?

And suddenly I don’t have silence. I have a voice and it’s not just my own. It’s a symphony of voices that blend together to form the voice that says, “You know what, Virginia? We won’t take this.” I’m taking steps, albeit small ones, to not be angry. I’m taking steps in the direction of trying to understand from where my opposition is coming. I’m taking steps to use my voice for the betterment of all Virginians. I will work with Equality Virginia, I will build coalitions with sympathetic Virginians and I will work to fight bigotry and homophobia throughout the commonwealth.

Yes, my lifestyle lost in referendum, but that’s not just it anymore. I am a gay man, I am an abused domestic partner, I am a child without a stable home, I am the person who can’t visit my friend who’s dying in the ICU and I will fight this.

Nathaniel Amos is a junior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Coming in 2036: The Piepenbring-Wren Building

Forget the nascent Ukrop Drive; forget Kaplan Arena. In 2036, I will, through the glory of my financial “philanthropy,” get my name affixed to the Christopher Wren Building and therein attain immortality.

The Piepenbring-Wren Building will dwarf everything around it. Students will no longer want to live in the Sadlerville Complex, or waste their time being educated in Tucker Hall Brought To You By Pepsi. Even Prince’s Purchase, the building formerly known as Washington Hall, will be a thing of the past. Piepenbring-Wren will define the future.

How will I, as a lowly English major, earn enough money to purchase such prime nomenclature? Well, it just so happens that I have a friend in Nigeria who e-mailed me personally about some unclaimed funds. I don’t know how he got my address, but there are just billions in some bank account over there, earmarked for yours truly. All I have to do is front some capital and they’re mine. (Accounting for inflation and exchange rates, I may even emerge as a trillionaire.) As a mem-

ber of the nouveau riche society, I’ll throw a bunch of lavish cocktail parties and take up a healthy interest in cocaine. Whenever I use the bathroom, my hired robotic midget will smack my Swedish maid in the face, thus reminding her to wipe my derrière with a \$100 bill — even if I only urinated. The maid and the midget-bot will fight over my urine, because after an expensive surgical procedure, I will piss 70 percent gold dust.

Eventually, though, I’ll become so jaded that even the most expensive thrills will bore me (except for cocaine, which I’m told never gets old — it promises eternal youth). When this happens, I’ll shift my focus to philanthropy: children’s cancer funds, feeding the hungry, helping out teamsters, you name it. It’ll only be a matter of time until my alma mater comes to benefit from my god-like generosity.

At my behest, the salaries of all humanities professors will increase tenfold. The Sunken Garden will be immaculately manicured, all dormitories will have air-conditioning and the Caf will serve filet mignon and dolphin-free tuna two days a month (we don’t want to get carried away here). Our president, being so enthralled with my charity, will offer me a piece of the Wren Building after my armed thugs threaten to castrate his cat. (If the cat is spayed — or female — the

To drop or not to drop

Over the past year, numerous major universities around the country have decided to eliminate the early decision and early action options for college applications. Harvard and Princeton Universities were

some of the first schools to eliminate the options for next year’s applicants. This decision will clearly make a significant difference in the application process as a whole.

For many students, there is often no benefit to applying early decision. In fact, the better schools are often more selective during the earlier application rounds. If a student is not a sure fit for the school, admission offices will simply defer the application and look at it again within the larger pool of applicants.

However, this option gives a clear advantage to wealthier applicants. Students from more affluent backgrounds typically apply early decision because they don’t need to depend on financial to make a decision. Many qualified students are unable to apply early decision, though, because it is a binding agreement with no guarantee of financial aid.

I agree that the option of early decision should be eliminated from the application process. By having everyone apply in a single round, each applicant is given an equal opportunity for enrollment and those who need financial aid are not put at a disadvantage.

There is also a growing worry among both college and high school teachers that high school seniors are not working hard enough after they get into college. Chances are that we have all heard of “senioritis” and

most of us probably suffered from it during our senior year. The problem, however, is that it starts much earlier for those students who get in through early decision. After months of slacking during senior year, these students experience great difficulty re-adjusting to the workload of freshman year in college.

As someone who got into the College through early decision, I understand how negatively it can affect students’ academics. But, at the time, it seemed like the best decision I could make. I received my acceptance letter on Nov. 30, so I was carefree for the rest of my senior year. But, if you asked my parents or my teachers, both would have said that there was a noticeable dive in my performance at school. Once I was in, there was little motivation to work as hard as I did before.

Despite the clear advantages of eliminating the early decision option, most schools don’t have the luxury of doing so. Harvard can afford to do so because it has the highest rate of students who choose to enroll once they are admitted; it knows that students will enroll regardless. Many schools, however, would not be able to fill the expected number of students without the option.

Schools that can afford to eliminate the early decision option should do so. There would not only be a noticeable improvement in the academic performance of those high school students who would have applied early, but the clear disadvantage it poses for those students in need of financial aid would also be rectified. There is no point in giving an advantage to those students who already have an upper hand in the application process.

Rachael Siemon-Carome is a freshman at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Misguided tours

They rejected me. I auditioned to join the ranks of the College’s tour guide elite and was flatly rejected after the first interview. To call my response to this rejection distraught would be an understatement. It felt

like someone had driven a large metal clipboard straight into my heart. But I’ve started to get over my denial. In fact, I’m beginning to realize what a bunch of rotten lying liars the people we call tour guides really are.

My own realization of my imminent rejection occurred halfway through the interview.

“How would you describe religion on campus?” my interviewer asked. I stood in Blow Memorial Hall dumbfounded, while my fellow interviewees sat politely in front of me. Several rows of chairs back, a panel of veteran tour guides sat silently judging me. I rocked back and forth nervously. What else was I, a self-identified atheist, to do? I don’t believe in God, let alone pay attention to the practices of those who do.

“Well, I’d say that our campus is pretty open. We hold lots of religious services for all different kinds of things.” I paused. “There are also van services to take you to service types.”

What was I saying? Could I have sounded any more like a moron? My dreams were crushed.

But I did have some very lofty ideas for myself as a tour guide. Walking around campus, I’ve noticed plenty of guides in action, each of them addressing their groups as though talking to a mob of eager infants. “This is the library. It was recently renovated and it’s a really great place to get work done or meet up with some friends to study. Isn’t that interesting?” No, it’s not interesting. If anything, it’s the same absent-minded drivel that tour guides around this country say to prospective students daily. I would’ve been different.

Each and every person on my tours would have been addressed honestly: I wouldn’t have sugarcoated a thing. “Yeah, the food here’s not too great but, you know, it’s college. What do you expect?” I would have cracked jokes about how hard the College can be. “Some people call it ‘the place where fun dies’ and, you know, they’re often right.” I would have also never mentioned the fact that Jon Stewart went to school here. I mean honestly, he’s not that funny. Besides, he didn’t even like attending the College. Prospective stu-

dents would have loved me for keeping it real, fathers would have found my brutal honesty refreshing and moms would have adored my charming good looks and working knowledge of every film featuring alum Glenn Close — “Dangerous Liasons” anyone?

The truth of the matter remains, however, that I didn’t get the position. In fact, the powers that be chose not to call me back for the second round of auditions. Sure, I’d responded to the question asked with the insight and intellect of a 12-year-old, but at least I was honest, right? The students who did get called back lied through their teeth. “What’s your favorite tradition on William and Mary’s campus?” the panel asked the group. “Well I’ve only been here for a semester, but gosh I’m just so excited about the Yule Log ceremony,” one of my fellow interviewees responded. “All my upperclassman friends tell me how much fun it is.” He was from the Midwest and wore a T-shirt from the Broadway musical “Wicked.” He smiled broadly, showing off every inch of his bright white teeth, and instantly reminded me of everything I hated about high school. Those darn theatre kids, those stinking performers, those people who did and said things only to impress others. I wanted to vomit.

What parent or prospective student would want to be led around campus by some doofus who obviously didn’t mean a single word he uttered so enthusiastically? I’ll bet he has an iPod full of showtunes and a closet full of t-shirts from Broadway musicals. But as much as I hated him for being fake, part of me wanted to believe that the things he said were true.

I told my friend Emily about my desire to write about my tour guide rejection the other day. “Well, I’m glad you’re writing about tour guides,” Emily said. “I think a lot of them are douchebags.” The bitter, rejected person in me reveled in her harsh language. Tour guides specialize in telling half-truths — they paint the College as a perfect, ideal place when, in all truth, it’s not. School is hard, not only intellectually, but also emotionally. My freshman year was the most difficult year of my life. None of my tour guides ever told me this, but I don’t think I would have wanted them to. I desired, and still want to attend, the fictional place that their actions and stories motion to. A place where friends are plentiful, class is always intellectually stimulating and fun can always be had.

James Damon is a sophomore at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



Clint Condra



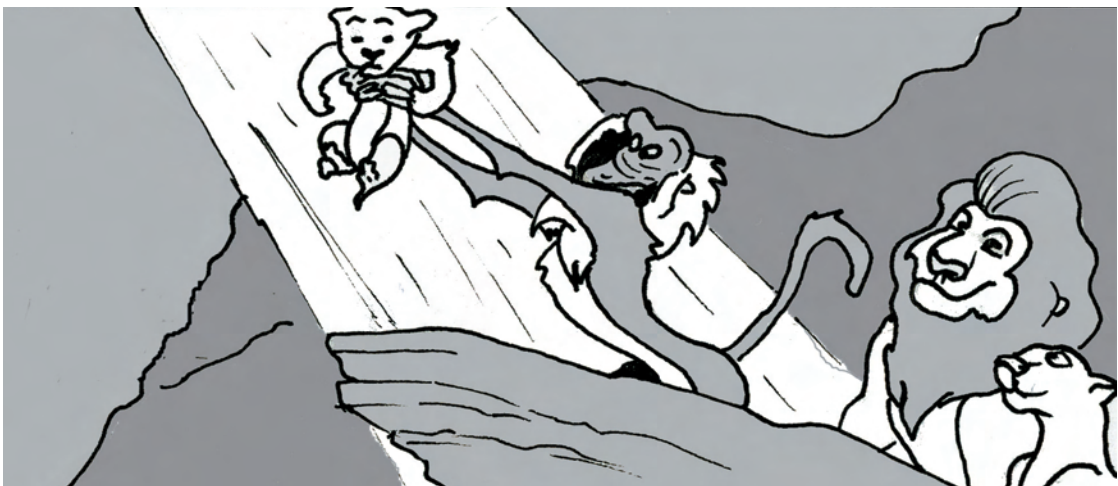
Rachael Siemon-Carome



Nathaniel Amos



James Damon



Pro-choice, not pro-abortion

In a country where over half of all citizens self-identify as “pro-choice” (according to a 2004 Gallup poll), I am sick of how misinterpreted this label has become. Since when do pro-choice activists hate women and try



Devan Barber

to trick them into abortion? Since when did “choice” become an undesirable ideal? (I don’t have answers, but you could ask the “Feminists for Life” flyers lining the halls of Morton.) I want to reclaim my name.

In truth, owning a pro-choice identity speaks for itself: it advocates an attitude of acceptance and support for whatever reproductive decisions women make.

Pro-choice politics assign no value to one choice over another — it only promotes women’s self-determination in this realm of private-decision-turned-public-discourse. In the midst of political messaging, soundbytes and slogans, the real convictions behind a pro-choice ideology get lost in a cloud of misunderstanding. While I fear redundancy from advocates such as myself, I fear even more the reality that many individuals still misconstrue a basic tenet of the pro-choice movement: pro-choice does not mean pro-abortion. It seems almost silly to write. I mean, do thousands and thousands of American women and men actually devote their valuable time, money and intellects to a campaign pleading unsuspecting women to get abortions?

I don’t mean to imply that all pro-life individuals feel this way — in fact, I’m sure they don’t because I’ve known some very intelligent pro-lifers — but many pro-life organizations push the idea (an accusation, at worst, and an implication, at best) that we pro-choicers are out to coerce women into choosing abortion. I would ask them to re-read our name.

The whole idea behind the pro-choice movement in America has always been to offer more reproductive choices to women. Planned Parenthood Federation of America, commonly known in this country solely

for its abortion services, has been working for over 90 years to provide women with every resource they need to make the right choices for their lives. In fact, only 9 percent of Planned Parenthood patients actually use abortion services. The remainder of the approximately 5 million clients served by the organization take advantage of contraception and family planning services, gynecological care, STI testing and treatment, adoption referrals, sex education and information on reproductive rights advocacy and the needs of women in developing countries. Furthermore, Planned Parenthood’s official mission statement asserts that “It is the policy of Planned Parenthood Federation of America to assure that all individuals have the freedom to make reproductive decisions.” I must have missed the fine print that says, “Oh, by the way, we only support women’s choices if they choose abortion.”

It seems that the “real” debate around abortion should simply remove itself from the current pro-choice/pro-life dichotomy. The issue has nothing to do with personal decision-making. And frankly, the issue doesn’t need to focus on abortion. A pro-choice ideology encompasses a belief in the need for every woman to have the ability and resources to make her own decisions regarding reproductive health and parenthood. Yes, it includes abortion, which is not secretive or shameful for the pro-choice movement, but it also includes the right for a woman to detest abortion and vow never to obtain one. It allows women to delay childbirth and to receive high-quality prenatal care once they are ready. The pro-choice movement lets women escape their culturally circumscribed roles as mothers and celebrate that role if they so choose.

If we reject this ideology of choice, we are left simply with non-choice: a lack of agency, a lack of resources, a lack of self-determination and a lack of personhood. To respect women is to allow them to control their own reproduction, in whatever manner they desire. That is what it really means to be pro-choice.

Devan Barber is a junior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Off-campus liberty

Despite my fervent agreement with sophomore Matt Beato’s Nov. 10 column opposing Williamsburg’s cap on the number of unrelated people who can live off-campus together, I feel obliged, as a student who does live off-campus, to point out a number of matters in which he does an extreme disservice to students at the College.



Thomas Silverstein

The columnist, who has been at the vanguard of the struggle for student voting rights during his brief time here, seems to have forgotten that the measures he urges the city to adopt to maintain order

(if the housing ordinance is repealed) are precisely the sorts of measures that would be overturned if there were something resembling a democracy in Williamsburg. For example, Williamsburg might intensify the enforcement of its noise ordinance and, by implication, there might be a more vigorous enforcement of laws pertaining to drug and alcohol use.

In addition, by objecting to the city’s policy and distancing himself from the very people damaged by the policy, the columnist muddles the discourse on individual rights, which should be at the center of all of these battles with our local government. In his world, the people who exercise freedom of action and freedom of conscience are in the minority while good, law-abiding citizens, like himself, are in the majority.

This is simply not the case.

There are many reasons why a student might opt to live off-campus after their required on-campus experience of freshman year. Even within our artificially-contracted housing market, rent is still, in most cases, markedly less expensive than the obscene rates charged for dorm rooms by Residence Life. More adequate cooking facilities, especially important for students with alternative dietary needs, are another perk. Beyond that, there is a rewarding difference in the pace of life experienced in a dwelling that functions as one’s home. Living off-campus, particularly if one is able to live in the same place for the last three years of his or her undergraduate study, lends a stability that is often lacking in dorm life. For all of these reasons, I would never choose to go back to living on-campus.

But there is one more very simple reason why I would never live on campus: privacy. As Residence Life staff continually trumps out the notorious “failure to comply” rule to coax its way into students’ rooms, it is clear that students

have something less than full Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights. As a person hell bent on violating the laws of both our commonwealth and our republic, I simply cannot stomach the idea that some RA on a power trip (thankfully, my only RA was not such a person) could endanger my ability to remain a student at the College. And over what? Over my decision to assert autonomy over my very own neurotransmitters. What could be a more inalienable right than the right to that autonomy? How can the pursuit of that autonomy be distinguished from Thomas Jefferson’s “right to the pursuit of happiness?” Let the record show that Jefferson did indeed make recreational use of a particular drug derived from the cannabis plant.

The Residence Life staff, by the way, is taught to recognize the aroma of burning cannabis during their training. While the cannabis that they burn is, no doubt, very poor in specimen, an RA armed with that training is far more capable of harassing a student smoking in her or his room than an officer of the Williamsburg Police Department would be in trying to inflict similar injustice unto a student living in a three-bedroom house off-campus. After all, the smell simply will not travel far enough to manifest itself under a yonder policeman’s nose. Students living off-campus are inherently less vulnerable to abridgements of their liberties resulting from our absurd drug and alcohol policies.

Having the sense to acknowledge that living off-campus is the safer bet, many students, who choose to make responsible use of both licit and illicit substances, act upon that instinct and move off-campus. Some of these people even have parties from time to time. We are in college, after all. If a neighbor has a problem with the noise emanating from a party, then it would seem as though the simplest way to deal with that issue would be for the offended party to simply tell his or her student neighbor about their concern. That is called common sense.

Matt Beato, in his piece, does not delve into the reasons why people choose to live off-campus. If he engaged in such a discourse, then he would have realized that the policies that he has suggested are just as incongruous with basic notions of liberty as the “three-person to a house rule.” He invites the city to rain down further injustice upon us.

I, personally, resent him for that. *Thomas Silverstein is a junior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.*

Letters to the Editor

Copy editing errors

To the Editor:

As an alumna of the College, I was extremely excited to be able to visit the campus on Nov. 11 for the first time in five years with some old college friends. We enjoyed reminiscing and walking through campus and enjoyed the beauty of the College in the fall.

While there, we picked up the Nov. 10 edition of The Flat Hat. I had been following the controversy regarding the removal of the cross from the Wren Chapel and eagerly turned to the Letters to the Editor section. Imagine my surprise when the first heading of the first letter read: “Seperation of church and state.” I was flabbergasted that the misspelled word made it to copy. Misspelling separation looks, at worst, uneducated, and, at best, sloppy. I also found another typo in the staff editorial section: the word “unfriednly.”

I have yet to finish reading the paper, so there may be more mistakes like these. Is there a copy editor at The Flat Hat? I know that The Flat Hat can do a better job than this.

— Meredith Johnson, ’91

A message from the Grinch

To the Editor:

President Nichol, I write (in the voice of your proud mentor, the Grinch) to congratulate you on your recent achievement. Removing the cross from the Wren Chapel is perhaps your greatest maneuver as president thus far. I’m proud of you beyond expression. However, I believe there is room for even more improvement. I must admit, when I first met you at the Winter Celebration, I didn’t think you had it in you to truly live up to my expectations.

Why stop with the cross, President Nichol? May I suggest taking further steps and also remove the coat of arms hanging in the Chapel? They clearly represent the absolute and tyrannical rule of English monarchs this country fought so hard to defeat. It is a disgrace, and offensive to my American heritage, to have this symbol of monarchical rule hanging in our Chapel. While I am at it, on my last tour of the school, I noticed paintings of past college presidents and various leaders who were, no doubt, supporters of slavery. It is shameful for our school to be showcasing these white supremacists as great heroes of our college. Along with the coat of arms, they represent the disgraceful past of our country.

Now that I think about it, the Brafferton should also be removed from our campus. Each brick sends

to the community the message of white supremacy and enslavement of Native Americans. We are certainly cheating ourselves of the College’s proud past by continually reminding ourselves of its mistakes.

In fact, President Nichol, you have your work cut out for you. All of the statues of Thomas Jefferson, James Blair, Lord Botetourt and the like should be replaced with statues of androgynous purple people (purple so as not to offend people of any color). Oh, and may I suggest one more change. The name of the College itself further suggests monarchical tyranny and opposes all of what America stands for. Perhaps a more appropriate name, such as The College of “We’re All So Special and Important,” is in order.

Best wishes, President Nichol. You’re on the right track and I look forward to finally seeing this school fulfill its potential of being the number one “Most Progressive Small Liberal Arts College in America.” Don’t lose hope. I’ve taught you well and I’m sure you’ll one day be remembered as the President who stole Tribe spirit.

— Elizabeth Bowman, ’07

Stand up to the NCAA

To the Editor:

President Nichol, the issue surrounding the Tribe name and logo boils down to two major points:

First, the decision by the NCAA is inconsistent, arbitrary and, on the whole, without merit (and, if my sources are correct, the decision was rendered summarily without explanation or justification).

Second, despite this inconsistent and arbitrary decision, the leadership of the College has decided to accede to the demands of this decision of an unaccountable authority, primarily for reasons of practicality and political expedience.

As I reflect on your Oct. 10 letter, I pause to consider the message the decision sends to me, as an alumnus of the College, the lesson it teaches to the students of the College, who will become the leaders and decision makers of tomorrow, and the message it sends to student athletes, who work hard to represent the College on the athletic field as genuine student-athletes. It is not a message or lesson I am proud of.

About 230 years ago, a group of Americans, including several alumni of the College, wrestled with the implications of the arbitrary and meritless decisions of an unaccountable authority. Fortunately, for the generations of Americans who followed them, these brave alumni chose to do the right and honorable thing: to pursue justice, even to the point of

going to war against the oppressors, despite the long odds and the political and economic cost. I thank all that is good and just in the world that those courageous and principled alumni came to a decision different from the one you and the rest of the leadership at the College came to in this case. The United States and, arguably, much of the western world have immeasurably benefited from that decision in 1776 and the principles it represented — indeed the highest ideals of human progress, achievement, service and dignity.

More recently, the NCAA held a stranglehold on and dictated the contractual terms for broadcast rights of NCAA-sanctioned athletic competition, with very little or no consideration for the institutions engaged in the competition. Under the same threat of foreclosure, no academic institution dared challenge the authority of the NCAA dictatorship. No one, that is, until a few universities, with their own proud heritage of producing a combination of scholastic and athletic excellence, recognized the unjust usurpation of the valuable athletic franchise and decided to stand up to the oppression and challenge the arrogance. Today, member institutions of the NCAA have much more latitude in negotiating their valuable broadcast rights and are immeasurably better off because a few institutions chose to stand up and do the right thing.

Regardless of the stakes involved, be it the fate of an independent nation, the fate of basic contract rights or the fate of an athletic symbol, the principle is the same: standing up to tyranny and the pursuit of justice is the right thing to do, even when doing so requires commitment and sacrifice. That is the message and lesson the College should be supporting.

I understand that, as the administrators of the College, you have many constituencies to serve and that decisions, such as those cited in your letter, are not taken lightly nor are they made without considerable reflection, discussion and debate. However, despite the fact that the decision was made with great effort and consideration, it does not mean it was the right one. I hope, at some point, you and the Board of Visitors will reconsider and choose to stand up to this abusive and unjust exercise of authority and practice what you preach as the hallmarks of the College

— Kevin Krizman, MBA ’92

Jeffersonian principles

To the Editor:

The Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, originally introduced in 1777 by Alumnus Thomas Jefferson, helped abolish official state religion for

the Commonwealth. This model was later extended to the national stage. Though you or I might like an established state religion, I might choose a different religion from you. We can thank Mr. Jefferson for protecting me from you, and you from me. Wise leaders respect the rule of democracy while wisely codifying the value in protecting the many from the few, as well as the few from the many.

I respect that the Wren Chapel was historically a place of Christian worship; and at times it serves as a chapel even to this day. If it was a church separate from the College, I would expect to see a cross there at all times. When my friends and colleagues desire to assemble for religious purposes in the Wren Chapel and to stand or kneel in the presence of their chosen symbol of faith, I expect a cross to be displayed without reservation or hesitation. When or if the Chapel functions as a classroom or for any secular purpose, I expect it to be a welcoming place for all members of the College community. The College in the 21st century has become a home for higher learning for all faiths, a place where all are to feel welcome to pursue knowledge. May it ever be so.

In a world where principles are almost passe and in a land where leaders govern based on polls and political winds, President Nichol has shown the courage to live based on Jeffersonian principles. By doing so, he stands strong with his distinguished alumnus and with the principles that helped form and shape our great nation.

— Daniel Shaye, ’90

Web site lacks creativity

To the Editor:

I note with encouragement that The Flat Hat has refreshed its website’s design. However, I must point out that as an avid reader of The New York Times that I found a disquieting similarity between The Flat Hat’s new web design (flatathatnews.com) and The New York Times’ current offering (nytimes.com). Web design is an art form that lends itself to creative inspiration and limited sampling, and taking inspiration from an existing design is certainly the sincerest flattery. I am a professional graphic and web designer, and I can attest to this process. That said, I feel that the web designers at The Flat Hat should be careful to take a little less inspiration and use a little more creativity in their design process. The line between duplication and imitation is a fuzzy one. Plagiarism isn’t limited to the written word.

— Michael Weissberger, ’05

The Flat Hat’s next issue comes out Feb. 2
Have a great break!

AROUND THE NATION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW:



♦ The week in sports was highlighted by the University of Florida’s surprise selection to the BCS Championship game. The Gators beat out the University of Michigan for the right to play no. 1 Ohio State University. Florida was given the opportunity to get in after the University of Southern California pulled off a choke job for the ages by losing to conference and in-city rival University of California—Los Angeles.

♦ The NFL had its fair share of exciting games this past week, the most exciting finish coming in Tennessee as Titans kicker Rob Bironas’ (*right*) 60-yard field goal with seven seconds left sunk division opponents, the Indianapolis Colts. The Titans were able to pull out the victory despite being dressed in quite possibly the ugliest uniforms in the history of professional sports (the full-length light blue number would look better outfitting the aerobics class in a retirement community). Tony Romo kept the Cowboys’ winning streak alive by leading Dallas to a 23-20 victory over the New York Giants. San Diego Chargers tailback La-Dainian Tomlinson once again proved himself to be the league’s top offensive player, rushing for 178 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-21 victory over the Buffalo Bills.



WHAT TO WATCH THIS WEEK:

College Football

♦ Heisman Trophy Award Presentation — Saturday, 8 p.m. on ESPN (channel 12)

NFL

- ♦ Indianapolis Colts at Jacksonville Jaguars — Sunday, 1 p.m. on CBS (channel 3)
- ♦ Philadelphia Eagles at Washington Redskins — Sunday, 1 p.m. on FOX (channel 14)
- ♦ New Orleans Saints at Dallas Cowboys — Sunday, 8:15 p.m. on NBC (channel 10)
- ♦ Chicago Bears at St. Louis Rams — Monday, 8:30 p.m. on ESPN (channel 12)

NBA

♦ Phoenix Suns at Miami Heat — Wednesday, 7 p.m. on ESPN (channel 12)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“Anyone who has seen them play realizes it is a no-brainer. Florida is not very good. I watched that game last night and that other quarterback completed like three passes the week before. They have 18 guys out there throwing passes out there for Arkansas.”
—New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, a Michigan grad, on why the Wolverines should be playing in the BCS Championship game.
Source: Patriots.com

Text by Jeff Dooley. Florida photo courtesy of Eog.com. Bironas photo courtesy of Times.Union.com.

Bledsoe curse the source of Tony Romo’s success

ROMO from page A12

can affect any NFL team. However, there exists many a foolish doubter of the storied curse.

After the curse failed to materialize in Buffalo, cynics across the nation denied its existence. “Who cares if just this one time an amazing quarterback rose from obscurity to become arguably the greatest QB in the NFL? Bledsoe went to Buffalo, and look what the Bills ended up with — J.P. Losman.” Granted, Losman is an incredibly mediocre signal caller. However, all those doubters failed to realize that the Bills are obviously impervious to the curse for two reasons. First, the Buffalo Bills, well, they’re just the Bills. They are so bad that even the mighty curse had no effect upon their franchise. The second explanation is that the curse takes a break on a set schedule. The curse did not touch the Bills because it only affects every other team that Bledsoe quarterbacks. So, as legend would have it, the curse must fall upon Bledsoe’s next team.

October 23, 2006, Texas Stadium. After throwing a terrible interception in the New York Giants red zone, Drew Bledsoe is pulled from the game by Coach Bill Parcells. The dejected Bledsoe can do nothing but watch from the sidelines as an undrafted nobody, who has never even thrown a pass in the NFL, enters the game. To the chagrin of Parcells and the Cowboys, Tony Romo, the undrafted quarterback out of Eastern Illinois University, trots onto the field and on his first NFL pass promptly throws a pick as the Cowboys go on to fall to the Giants 36-22. Sound familiar?

In his first NFL start against a formidable Carolina Panther defense, Romo suddenly transformed into Joe Montana, using his athleticism to evade defenders, leading the Cowboys

to a franchise record 25 fourth quarter points, and more importantly a decisive victory. Romo hasn’t slowed down since, posting a 5-1 record as a starter and a league-leading 102.4 quarterback rating. However, Romo’s most impressive attribute goes beyond the statistics. Romo’s constant air of confidence gives him that intangible element that you don’t see in just any average NFL quarterback. Romo seems to have that ability to, even when he is down, make that game-changing clutch play. The Giants were firsthand witnesses of such playmaking ability last weekend. With one minute remaining and the score knotted at 20, Romo rolled out to his left and uncorked an off-balance, 42-yard laser to tight end Jason Witten. Romo’s perfect pass put the Cowboys into field goal range, and the recently-acquired Martin Gramatica booted a 46-yarder home to give the ‘Boys a 23-20 victory.

After witnessing Romo’s emergence, it is essentially a proven fact that the Curse of Bledsoe exists. Although Romo’s accomplishments are partly due to his own physical ability and mental toughness, he owes most of his success to Drew Bledsoe (and possibly to his own high mojo levels after going on a date with Jessica Simpson). As for the rest of the season, the NFL has never seemed more predictable. Aided by the curse, the Cowboys will go on to easily capture a NFC east title, coast through the playoffs and win Super Bowl XLI behind a game-winning drive by field general Tony Romo. As for Bledsoe, he’ll be seen on the sidelines, wearing a smug smile, contemplating which lucky NFL team he will lead to the Promised Land next.

Graham Williamson is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat. His assistant editor wishes he wouldn’t make fun of the Bills.

Tribe 3-4 overall, preps for N. Florida

MEN from page A12

“Just keep playing hard. That was our focus,” Payton said. “We didn’t really have a set game plan. We knew we would need heart to win it.”

After Shaver called a timeout with 4:54 left, the College swarmed the Big Red with full-court pressure and man-to-man defense, forcing six Cornell turnovers in the final five minutes of the game. With the defense disrupting the Big Red offense, the Tribe reeled off 12 unanswered points to cut their deficit to one at 58-59 with 1:15 left.

Cornell extended its lead to four after Jason Battle hit two free throws and Andrew Naeve made one free throw to make it 58-62. With 28 seconds to go in regulation, Mann buried a three from the corner off an assist from senior guard Adam Trumbower, cutting the deficit to one at 61-62. After each team used a timeout, Payton bolted into the passing lane, stole the inbounds pass and earned a trip to the foul line with just 14 seconds remaining. He made only one free throw, knotting the score at 62-62. Cornell’s Battle tried to give his team the lead, but as he drove to the basket, Trumbower stepped into his path and drew a charge to send the game into overtime. With the momentum on their side, the College never trailed in overtime en route to a

73-68 victory.

Payton, whose free throw shooting and defense buoyed the Tribe to the championship, earned the Classic MVP award, and Kisielius, who turned in 41 points in the tournament, was named to the All-Tournament team.

Tribe 59, Jacksonville State 56

The Tribe secured its place in the championship game by defeating the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks 59-56 Friday night. Despite committing 28 turnovers and missing 16 of 33 free throws, the Tribe used strong rebounding, hustle and clutch free throw shooting from Kisielius to escape with a victory.

“Effort plays won the game for us,” Shaver said. “Offensively we were not really good with the ball. It’s amazing what one guy [Schneider] can do for you.”

The College nearly let the win slip away as the Gamecocks scored eight straight points to cut the Tribe’s lead to one, but with 19 seconds left, Kisielius stepped to the foul line and drained two free throws to give the College a three-point advantage. Jacksonville State’s Will Ginn misfired with his three-point attempt and sophomore Chris Darnell secured the rebound and the game for the Tribe.

The Tribe will play the University of North Florida Ospreys for the first time tonight at 7 p.m. in Kaplan Arena.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
The Tribe lost to Towson University in its CAA opener 60-73 Dec. 5.

Underclassmen train for next season

FOOTBALL from page A12

On the defensive side of the ball, a core of veteran players surrounded by more inexperienced players struggled to overcome injury and adversity as the season wore on. The Tribe opened the season with an impressive defensive performance against the University of Maryland, and the defense put the Tribe in a position to defeat the University of Maine, but shortly following a number of key injuries, including sophomore linebacker Josh Rutter’s season-ending ACL tear, the unit’s confidence collapsed.

“After a while our defense lost its swagger a little bit,” redshirt freshman defensive end Adrian Tracy said. “We always talk about playing with an attitude that people can’t stop us, and I think we lost that as we were progressing because we would get down on ourselves after a big play or a touchdown, and then we would fall apart mentally.”

Concerning the defense, a lack of consistency was clearly to blame. For the offense, the problem was an abundance of uncertainty. Sophomore Jake Philips entered the season as the Tribe’s clear number one starter at quarterback, but following a series of unproductive performances, Laycock handed over the offensive reigns to junior Mike Potts. At times during the season, each quarterback looked impressive, but each had his struggles.

When the final horn blew against the University of Richmond to signal the end of the season, neither had established himself as the clear starter for next year.

“It is tough as a receiver seeing two different quarterbacks, because you kind of want to get comfortable with somebody just to kind of get in a rhythm,” junior receiver Joe Nicholas said. “I think that had some of the reason to do with the [inconsistency this] season, but we were just trying to have the best person in there at the best time to help the team.”

The play of senior running back Elijah Brooks, however, was never uncertain. Brooks built on his success from the previous year, averaging 84.6 yards per game on the ground en route to gaining 931 yards on the season and 2,536 for his career, enough to place him sixth on the College’s all-time rushing yards list. Due to Brooks’ key role, the new starter at running back will be under pressure to perform immediately.

“We are going to miss him, but I think myself and the other running backs will be able to pick up the slack. We won’t lose a step,” sophomore running back DeBrian Holmes said.

Now that the season is over, the seniors face the realization that not only their football careers, but their time at the College as well, are drawing to a close.

“You get caught up in practicing and

meetings and film and you overlook the time you are having,” Wheeling said. “Now, having been off for a couple weeks, I have had a chance to look back and reflect, and without question it’s been the best time of my life. My time here has been a dream come true and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

As the seniors prepare for life after college and football, the rest of the team has hit the weight room to prepare for next season.

“We are already starting to work hard in the offseason. If we continue to work hard, then we won’t need to worry about having another season like we did this year,” Holmes said. “We have a young team, so I think next year we will just come out and do our thing.”

“The ball was in our court,” Cox said. “This year, we were in every game, just things didn’t go our way. Going into the offseason, we will take a business-like approach to getting better.”

In addition to offseason conditioning, the amount of playing time underclassmen received this year will be crucial to their development moving forward.

“A lot of the kids that played this year were extremely talented but did not have a lot of game experience,” Nicholas said. “Hopefully having that year to get used to it will jumpstart them into next year and bring the team together.”



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
Though the Tribe finished with a record of 3-8, the College’s worst since 1982, underclassmen gained much-needed experience.

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

Basketball game becomes tragic challenge

While sitting down and pondering the topic for my final column of the year, I was struck by a strong desire to be bold. To be honest, I had a difficult time. What could I



BRAD CLARK

do that hadn't been done before, that wouldn't offend and wouldn't result in my relocation to a cozily barred concrete room? I knew, however, that somewhere out beyond the horizon was an idea yet unthought, and that only by thinking outside of my limitations could I find that spectacularly daring scheme. And then it hit me. What could I do that hardly any students had done before? Easy — I'd venture to a basketball game.

I know what you (if you're anything like the average student) are saying right now: "We, like, have a basketball team?" Yes, my tragically misinformed friend, we do. Getting there would not be easy, however, due to the administration's conspiratorial plan to keep students from supporting our team. You read that correctly; the College doesn't actually want students to go to the games. I found it hard to believe at first as well, but after facing a nearly impenetrable wall of security last Friday night, I quickly began to catch on to the plan.

My first clue was the parking situation. My friends and I rolled up — just a couple of ganstas, blasting Coolio and looking hard — to find sign after sign with the same text scrawled across it — "NO STUDENT PARKING." Well that was all fine and good; I've come to embrace the fact that the powers that be can render our paid-for parking

permits useless with little more than the tip of a hat. The only thing was that the rest of the sign read "FOR BASKETBALL GAME." Apparently students, even those going to the game, had no right to park in those spots. At this point I had two beliefs — either there was, in fact, a conspiracy, or the administration had wised up to the student body's traditionally poor attendance at basketball games and had decided to focus instead on paying customers.

Finally, we found a parking spot, one with a marker saving it for parents (shh, they are probably reading this at this very moment), and made our way into the building. Or at least we tried to. No sooner had we opened the doors than a portly woman with an air of authority bellowed a tirade at us which, to my alcohol-fueled thinking, sounded like the gears of social justice grinding to a shocking halt.

"Excuse me, but you can't come in here." "Well listen, lady," I replied. "We live in a little place called America, which, in case you didn't know, means freedom. You know what? I don't even care about the terrible, bone-curdling ways that you're going to torture me or my friends — it is my God-given right as a student of this school, and I'M GOING TO THAT GAME!"

She, probably sensing the desperation and general instability of my demeanor, replied quite tactfully, "Sir, the students' section is around the corner, you just need to walk around to go in."

"That's right, I'm going in," I said, turning to my friends. "We sure showed her, didn't we, guys?"

Finally, we were there. Eager to get in, but not before putting myself in the running for

an authentic (featherless) Tribe jersey, I ran quickly to the card swiping station. To my great chagrin, the powers that be had beaten me there.

"Sorry, the machine's broken right now," said the cheerful woman behind the table, smiling the whole time. I could smell the corruption wafting off of this woman. I felt that, if only I cornered her Jack Bauer style and asked the right questions in the right tone, then eventually she'd break down wailing, "It's true! The whole thing, it's all true. To be honest we didn't think that anyone would make it this far."

Luckily, this time, my friends pulled me away, and we got into the game. And guess what? It was great. Although the arena had less than half of its seats filled, the crowd really got into the game, helping the Tribe to a 59-56 win over Jacksonville State University. Which leads me to the moral of my little song and dance: go to the basketball games (and field hockey, baseball, soccer, etc.). People complain about how our school isn't like others, what with the smaller sports teams and less school spirit. Well, there's something we can do about that — throw all of our savings into school apparel, body paint and mood enhancers, get out to the games and scream our heads off like we're freaking nuts. A person shouldn't complain about things that he or she can change. Especially not when there's a bigger fish to fry. I'm talking, of course, about the cons — Hey, how'd you get in here? . . . Is that you, Mr. Sadler? . . . what are you doing . . . put me down . . . put me . . . YOU CAN'T SILENCE THE TRUTH, YOU CAN'T SILENCE —

Brad Clark was a sports columnist for The Flat Hat.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Swimming sets school records

Men sixth of 11 in Terrapin Cup Invitational

By HEATHER IRELAND
THE FLAT HAT

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams fought hard for their spots in the top 10 ranks of the Terrapin Cup Invitational in College Park, Md., Nov. 16 to 18, proving themselves against their opponents during an already successful season. A few of the competing Tribe athletes even broke their own records, as well as improving their records in the College's all-time bests.

On the first day of the tournament, sophomore Jeff Collier advanced to the finals in the 500-meter freestyle, finishing with a time of 4 minutes, 43.48 seconds, good for 16th place. Sophomore Jason Brisson also made it into the consolation finals where he swam his personal best time of 1:53.24 in the 200-m individual medley, moving him into the position of fourth-best in Tribe history for the medley. That

same evening, one of the Tribe's 200-m free relay teams came in eighth place with a time of 1:25.29 with senior Nick Duda, freshman Kevin Gallagher, freshman Joe DeBiase, and sophomore Nader Amer comprising the relay team.

The following day, Brisson had yet another exceptional run of events beginning with the 400-m individual medley scoring a time of 4:03.46, giving him the second-best time in Tribe history and third in the competition. Brisson also moved up to second all-time in the 200-m breaststroke with a fifth place of 2:03.95.

Junior Alex Jendzejec, DeBiase, Gallagher and Amer combined for a ninth place finish in the 800-m free relay, the fourth best time in Tribe history for the event at 6:57.77.

The men's team wrapped up the Invitational in sixth place overall out of 11 teams competing at the event.

The women had an amazing start

to their Invitational competition as freshman Katie Radloff broke the College's school record in the 50-m free with a blazing time of 22.93, followed three places behind by senior Marnie Rognlien, who holds the second best time in the event in College history at 23.75 .

Sophomore Marina Falcone improved the school record she held in the 500-m free to a 4:56.39 finishing time. The 200-m free relay team, consisting of Radloff, Rognlien, Falcone and junior Meredith David, set the new school record at 1:35.51 while earning fifth place in the competition.

Radloff continued her record-breaking streak in the 200-m freestyle with a 1:49.30 time, earning herself her second NCAA qualification of the meet. Radloff also took part in the 800-m free relay team with Falcone, Rognlien and junior Christina Monsees to set a school record in that event as

well, coming in at 7:36.14.

Barely missing a third NCAA qualification, Radloff broke yet another school record, this time in the 100-m free with a time of 49.55, with Rognlien coming in at 51.32 for the second-best Tribe time in history.

Falcone devastated a school record by 22.8 seconds, clocking in at 16:51.77 in the 1,650-m freestyle race. Among many other impressive times, the 400-m free relay team of Radloff, Falcone, Rognlien and sophomore Sara Fitzsimmons reset the school record with a time of 3:28.22.

"This weekend was a major step in the development of our program," Head Coach McGee Moody said, "I think we'll see some even bigger things in the weeks and months ahead."

Coming up next for the Tribe swimmers is a noncompetitive meet in North Palm Beach, Fla. over the winter break against Johns Hopkins University.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Following a season that saw the Tribe finish 16-1-4, including a 10-0-1 conference mark en route to the CAA championship, Head Coach John Daly (right) was honored as the Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. It is Daly's fifth time earning the award, but his first since 1997. Daly's team played its last 17 games without a loss and finished the season with the seventh-best power ranking in the nation. For his career, Daly has 278 wins, placing him in the top 10 all-time at the Division I level. His tenure has also seen the Tribe advance to the NCAA tournament 18 times and capture nine CAA championships.



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY



The Tribe men arrived at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., ranked 21st in the nation and looking to make a mark on the tournament. They did just that, as the College put together its best race in over 30 years, finishing eighth in a field that consisted of the top 31 cross country programs in the nation. While the University of Colorado may have won the title, the real story of the day was the Tribe. The team's eighth place finish marked a triumphant return to Terre Haute for the College, which had placed 15th at the Brooks Pre-National Invitational held at the Indiana State University campus earlier in the season. Led by junior Christo Landry (left), the men put together one of the top performances in the College's history, bested only by the 1973 team that placed fourth at the NCAAs. For the second consecutive year, Landry earned All-American honors, as he finished the race with a time of 31:40.8, vaulting him into 34th place. The top 35 finishers were named to the All-American team. In his final race for the Tribe, senior Keith Bechtol turned in a time of 32:07.0 for a 60th place finish, while fellow senior Sean Anastasia-Murphy closed out his career with a time of 33:06.0 in 156th position. Junior Ian Fitzgerald was the only other runner for the Tribe to place in the top 100, as he finished 98th.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Tribe women concluded their season with a second place finish at the ECAC Championships, the College's best ever finish in the race. Led by senior Meghan Bishop, who placed fourth overall in her final race for the Tribe, the College finished just four points behind Cornell University for the championship. Three other runners also earned All-East team recognition by placing in the top 25. Juniors Emily Gousen and Kaitlin Hurley finished ninth and 10th, respectively, while freshman Anna Brousell took 15th. Senior Anna Parker closed the book on her career at the College with a 31st place finish.



By Miles Hilder. Daly photo courtesy of Tribeathletics.com. Landry and women's cross country photos courtesy of Jonathan Seiden.

Women fifth seed in conference of 12

Loss to Towson comes on the heels of a 64-41 victory over Virginia Tech

WOMEN from page A12

was all tied up, but not for long. Towson responded with another run, this time scoring 13 points in seven minutes, while the Tribe only added one point to its total.

With 7:04 remaining in the half, the Tigers led the Tribe 24-13. A short time later, Towson extended its lead to 14 points, holding a game-high 29-15 advantage over the College. A set of free-throws by James, a three-pointer by Kell and a pair of buckets by Kaylor helped the Tribe cut the deficit to seven points at the 2:04 mark. Towson would score an additional five points before the end of the half, however, leading the College 36-27 going into the locker room.

The Tribe came out strong in the second half, rattling off 10 points within the first four minutes. Senior Sarah Stroh was a key factor, cutting the margin to four points after converting on her three-point play opportunity. The College remained on the attack, scoring back-to-back baskets to match Towson's 41 points and force a Tigers time-out.

Back-and-forth scoring continued throughout the second half. The Tribe prevented Towson from achieving any sizable advantage, but was unable to take over the game. The College never allowed the Tigers more than a six-point lead, as Towson led 61-55 at the 2:20 mark.

"We had 23 turnovers, and that was defi-

nately the demise of the game," Coach Taylor said. "Virginia Tech was a big win for us, but we have to keep playing hard and improving every game.

"We are a young team and we are still finding ourselves," Coach Taylor said in defense of the Tribe's shaky performance. "We've been testing out different combinations, and we will continue to use our non-conference games to experiment and see what works best."

The College did play tough until the final buzzer sounded, cutting Towson's lead to three points with just 13 seconds remaining. The Tribe was then forced to foul the Tigers, who managed to sink their final four foul shots. Despite the College's 40-34 advantage on the boards, Towson walked away with a 66-59 victory.

"I wasn't happy with the loss, but I was pleased to see us come back in the second half," Taylor said. "If we continue to develop individually and as a team, we could be a good contender for the conference title."

Tribe 64, Virginia Tech 41

The loss to Towson came off the heels of the Tribe's 64-41 victory over Virginia Tech Nov. 28. The win marked the program's first victory over an ACC opponent in its Division I history.

Junior Devin James led the College against Virginia Tech with a career-high 26 points, while defensive efforts played a key factor as junior forward Kyra Kaylor totaled a game-high 11 rebounds and freshman Tiffany

Benson recorded four blocked shots.

As usual, scoring was gradual in the beginning of the first half. However, The Tribe broke open the game with a 14-point run to gain a 20-7 lead over the Hokies. After freshman guard Robyn Barton's three-pointer, the College held a 19-point advantage with less than three minutes remaining in the first half. The Tribe doubled Tech's points by the end of the first, holding a 34-17 lead going into the second half.

Although the Hokies made an 8-2 run after halftime, sophomore guard Dani Kell's three-pointer slowed them down, giving the Tribe a 38-25 advantage with 16:15 remaining. Tech proceeded to cut the margin to five points after making another eight-point run. The College countered the attack by scoring 13 unanswered points, holding a 51-33 lead with 8:32 left on the clock. With a pair of threes from James and six points off free throws down the stretch, the Tribe secured a 23-point victory over the Hokies.

This season, the Tribe is seeded fifth out of the 12 teams in its conference, the highest rank the College has seen in years. In the upcoming weeks, the Tribe will compete in five non-conference games before battling Drexel at the beginning of January. The first match of the series takes place tonight at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md., at 7 p.m. The Mountaineers are currently 1-0 in their conference and 5-1 overall.



NICOLE SCHEER • THE FLAT HAT

The Tribe prepares to play the Mount St. Mary's University Mountaineers tonight in Emmitsburg, Md., at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

Follow our columnist on his trip to a Tribe men's basketball game.
See Hoops, page A11.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
Senior guard Adam Payton (above) poured in 16 points against Towson.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 60, TOWSON 73

Early deficit too much for Tribe

Men fall behind by 17 at halftime in conference opener

By ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Down by 17 at halftime, the Tribe failed to achieve a comeback, falling to the Towson University Tigers 60-73 Tuesday night. Freshman David Schneider came off the bench to score 18 points on 5 of 9 shooting (4-8 from three-point range). Senior Adam Payton added 16 points and junior Kyle Carrabine notched a career-high 10 points. The trio contributed 44 of the College's 60 points as junior scorers Laimis

Kisielius and Nathan Mann went a combined 1 for 14 from the floor to total just six points.

The Tigers used an 8-0 run in the first half combined with consistent scoring to establish their 42-25 lead at the half.

"We didn't defend very well in the first half. We gave up a lot of lay-ups," Head Coach Tony Shaver said. "We had a hard time making shots."

The Tribe came out in the second half with more intensity and quickly started a 10-2 run to trim the deficit to nine. The

College managed to get within six points twice, but could not cut into the lead anymore.

"You can't dig a 17-point hole in this league and expect to win every time," Shaver said.

Towson established and maintained the lead by shooting 53.1 percent for the game, en route to their first win against the Tribe in Kaplan Arena.

Tribe 73, Cornell 68

Despite their Tuesday night loss, the Tribe showed promise this weekend when they won the Tribe Tip-Off Classic in a thrilling

comeback victory over Cornell University in overtime 73-68. Kisielius and Mann came off the bench to score 21 and 15 points, respectively, to lead the Tribe to its second Tip-Off Championship in three years.

Down 46-59 with just five minutes remaining, the College appeared to be out of the game, but Payton's defense sparked a 16-3 run that enabled the Tribe to tie the game at 62-62 and force overtime.

See **MEN** page A10

SPORTS FEATURE

Trial by water

Freshman Katie Radloff on her way to rewriting Tribe record books

By CARL SIEGMUND
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

If you asked freshman Katie Radloff early last fall about her chances of swimming for the Tribe or any other collegiate program, she might have been hesitant to respond.

While Radloff was hopeful of earning a spot on a collegiate swimming squad, her times entering her senior year of high school remained too high for serious consideration. But then something clicked. Always considered a good swimmer, Radloff suddenly began to dominate her competition early in the season. Now a hot commodity on the collegiate recruiting market, she only improved more, leading Yorktown High School (Arlington, Va.) to its first-ever Virginia AAA state championship before eventually committing to the College.

Fast forward to this fall and Radloff is well on her way to rewriting the swimming record books at the College. In just her first meet as a member of the swim team this October, Radloff broke the school record in the 100-meter freestyle event by two tenths of a second. Awarded CAA Swimmer of the Week honors twice this season, Radloff attributes her sudden turnaround last year to a new and improved attitude.

"Before, I was more of just a swimmer because I liked to do it. I didn't care about my times and the



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
Freshman Katie Radloff went from being an unmotivated high school swimmer to a Tribe record holder in just her first year with the team.

meets I went to as much," Radloff said. "But I started focusing on improving my times and became more mentally focused. I went to more practices and stepped it up."

Radloff's club coach of the Arlington Aquatic Club, Evan Stiles, watched her transformation late last fall.

"I got her to understand that if you want to be good, that you have to be dedicated and committed and come to practice every day," Stiles said. "Finally, something just clicked in her. Her freestyle and backstroke times dropped a lot. She figured herself out. A year ago, she was two seconds slower in the 50

free, and five seconds slower in the 100 free."

Soon after it was Tribe Head Coach McGee Moody initiating contact with Radloff, instead of the other way around.

"We really started pursuing Katie hard in November of her senior season based on her progress throughout the year," Moody said. "She is a very technically sound swimmer, and when her competition begins to tire and their technique breaks down, that is when she is at her strongest."

Radloff only added to her resume last winter, as she captained Yorktown to a second place finish

at the Virginia AAA Northern Region meet, and then the state championship. In addition to anchoring the 200-m freestyle relay team, which set a state record, Radloff finished third in the 50-m freestyle at the state meet.

"The impact Katie made in the championship was that she came to me after regionals and said she would like to swim the 50-m freestyle at states," Yorktown Head Coach David Lassiter said. "She promised a top three finish ... If Katie had not come to me and asked to swim the 50-m freestyle, we probably would not have been crowned state champions."

Fresh off of leading Yorktown to a state championship, Radloff blew past the competition this fall for the College. At the Terrapin Cup Invitational, she broke a total of 10 school records, both individually and through relay teams. Then, last weekend, she made it to the finals of the 100-m freestyle at the U.S. Open meet.

"She hates to lose," Stiles said. "She'll get up on the block and go like an animal."

Once a swimmer who skipped practices, leading her coaches to question her dedication, now Radloff is a force to be reckoned with in the pool.

"She has stepped up against some of the top sprinters in the country and has performed well," Moody said. "I truly believe we are just scratching the surface with what she can do."

W. BASKETBALL: TRIBE 59, TOWSON 66

Tribe loses CAA opener to Tigers

Kaylor records double-double

By JESSICA HECHT
THE FLAT HAT

The Tribe dropped its first CAA conference game to Towson University Sunday, 66-59. Although Head Coach Debbie Taylor had high expectations for the team's opener, the College dug itself into a hole early in the game and was never able to recover fully. Junior forward Kyra Kaylor did record her first double-double of the year, however,

as junior Devin James also tallied a double-double and sophomore Dani Kell reached double digits on the scoreboard.

Kaylor opened the game with a three-pointer for the Tribe, but the Tigers countered the attack with a 9-0 run to take a 9-3 lead with 3 minutes 31 seconds gone in the first. After the first media timeout, the Tribe scored six unanswered points, again sparked by Kaylor. At the 14:48 mark, the game

See **WOMEN** page A11



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
Junior guard Devin James (above) contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds in the Tribe's 59-66 loss to Towson University Sunday.

FROM THE SIDELINES

The curse of Bledsoe part two: Tony Romo

Sept. 23, 2001, Foxboro Stadium. New England Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe is flushed out of the pocket and drilled by



GRAHAM WILLIAMSON

New York Jets linebacker Mo Lewis. Bledsoe, suffering from internal bleeding after taking the ferocious hit, is removed from the game and replaced by an unknown sixth round draft pick out of the University of Michigan, Tom Brady. Having thrown only three passes in the NFL, the inexperienced Brady fails to lead the Patriots to a victory over the division rival Jets. Any knowledgeable sports fan knows the rest of the story. The upstart Brady goes on to lead the Patriots to a Cinderella season and an

eventual Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored St. Louis Rams blah, blah, blah ... but what is the real significance of this fateful day?

Yes, Sept. 23, 2001 marks the beginning of a Patriots dynasty. Yes, it marks the emergence of a future Hall of Fame quarterback. However, the date represents something far more significant, something far more momentous. Sept. 23, 2001, marks the dawning of "The Curse of Bledsoe." As the curse goes, a franchise quarterback will miraculously emerge from the bottom of the depth chart of any team that starts Bledsoe at the outset of the season. Some might argue that the magical occurrence should be dubbed "The Blessing of Bledsoe," but that is beside the point. The point is, the curse is very real and can

See **ROMO** page A10

FOOTBALL WRAP-UP

Tribe to take 'business-like approach'

The College looks to rebound next season following 3-8 finish

By MILES HILDER
THE FLAT HAT

Two years ago, coach Jimmy Laycock and the Tribe completed what was arguably the greatest season in the College's storied football history, recording 11 wins and advancing all the way to the NCAA Division I-AA semifinals. Last year, the Tribe started strong, at one time sporting a 5-2 record and ranked as high as ninth in the nation, before beginning a downward spiral. The College would not record a victory in their final four contests and wound up 5-6. The woes continued this year, as the Tribe regressed yet again, recording just three wins and finishing with their worst record (3-8) since 1982, Laycock's third year at the helm.

By the numbers...

931 — rushing yards this season by Elijah Brooks. Brooks is one of only three offensive starters graduating.

314 — tackles made by graduating seniors this season, out of a total of 825. The defense will lose six starters to graduation.

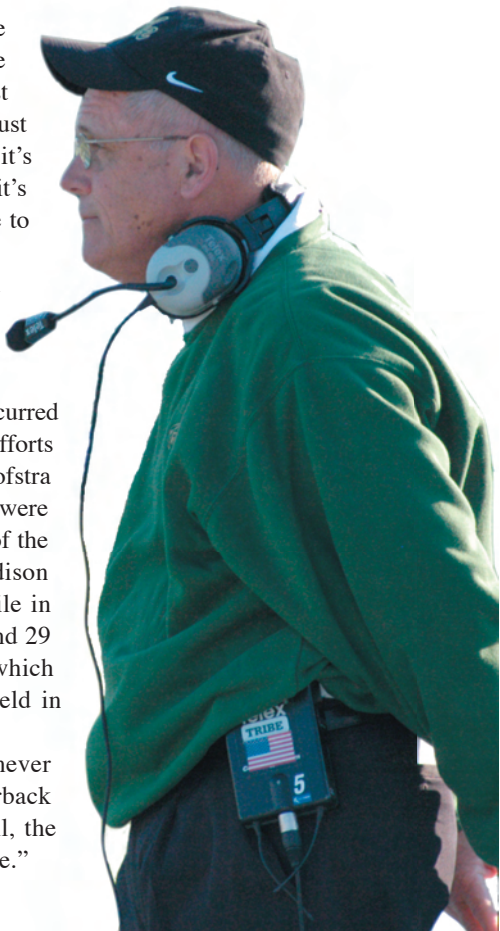
24 — number of years since the Tribe last had a three-win season.

Photo by Jonathan Seiden, The Flat Hat

"It's easy to look back and see the successes we had in 2004," senior defensive back Alan Wheeling said. "As far as the last couple years are concerned, I think it is just a lack of consistency. I don't really think it's the way we prepared, I don't really think it's personnel, and I don't know exactly where to point fingers."

That seems to have been the problem with the Tribe this year. At certain points during the season, a different aspect of the team has looked stellar. Unfortunately, these individual spurts have seldom occurred simultaneously. For the strong defensive efforts against Virginia Military Institute, Hofstra University and Liberty University, there were massive defensive meltdowns to the likes of the University of Massachusetts, James Madison University and Villanova University. While in some games the offense piled up 38, 31 and 29 points, there were numerous contests in which the traditionally explosive offense was held in check.

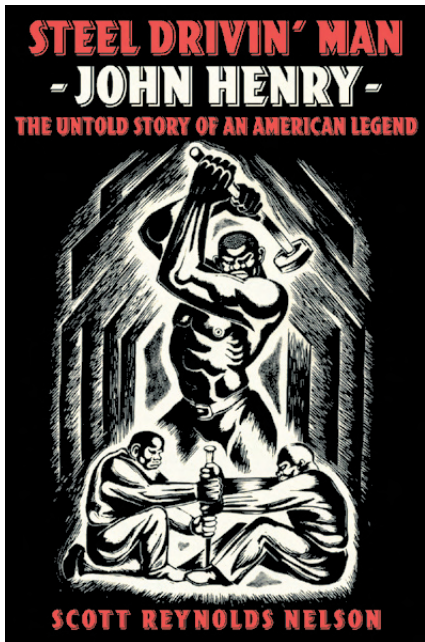
"The offense and the defense, we were never on the same page," sophomore cornerback Derek Cox said. "If one was playing well, the other one wasn't. We just didn't get it done."



See **FOOTBALL** page A10



Sam Bandstra makes a great human statue and has an epic story about a 12th-century monk. See **THAT GUY**, page B3.



COURTESY PHOTO • SCOTT NELSON
Professor Scott Nelson's "Steel Drivin' Man" was published this past October.

History prof unearths folk legend

By ELIZABETH COLE
THE FLAT HAT

College History Professor Scott Reynolds Nelson has published his book, "Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend" this past October. In it he chronicles the mysterious life behind the man whose life has inspired at least 200 folk songs. Critically acclaimed from its first release, the book has been welcomed with rapid sales and glowing reviews from the likes of The New York Times and Entertainment Weekly magazine.

Nelson specializes in southern U.S. history and culture. He had previously studied the life of John Henry, a famed railway laborer in the mid-19th century, whose burial site had never been found.

In 1998, Nelson set his computer desktop wallpaper to a picture of the old Richmond, Va. state penitentiary and its adjacent railroad. Nelson, who often listens to country, bluegrass and folk music for their historical relevance, noticed a white house in the picture. He recalled that in one of the many odes to John Henry there was described a "white house." Nelson made the connection and contacted the excavation team, which had unearthed over 200 anonymous corpses beneath the penitentiary site years before. His speculation was correct: John Henry was a lost legend no longer — his bones were finally reclaimed. Upon this discovery, Nelson unraveled the previously unknown story behind the man memorialized in many a song and entrenched in American southern culture.

Professor Nelson experimented with a variety of methods to conduct his research. He examined traditional historical documents such as court records, engineering letters, personal letters and company reports. Additionally, Nelson followed a trail of oral interviews and song lyrics that, when pieced together, unveiled Henry's history.

See **FOLK LEGEND** page B3

Deck the halls with Green and Gold

By CHELSEA RUDMAN
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

It occurs to me, as I chase seven-year-old Brittany up the University Center stairs for the second time, that giving coffee to a child already in the overexcited throes of pre-Christmas celebration may have been a mistake.

But then, most of the children at last Saturday's Green and Gold Christmas need no caffeine to have the collective energy of a preschool class on pixie sticks. Fueled by seemingly depthless reservoirs of holiday spirit, no child appears capable of walking between the attractions and games that dominate the top floor of the UC, but only running.

Some 160 children aged 4 to 13 were here last Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to enjoy this Christmas festival. Started in the 1980s by the Residence Hall Association, Green and Gold Christmas is now run by a student group that broke off in the 1990s to organize the annual party, thrown to give children from low-income families a blend of holiday treats and carnival-style fun under the watchful eyes of positive role models.

"Some of these kids don't have the strongest older influences," says senior Kathleen McDuff, co-chair of the event with junior Randi Lassiter. "It's good for them to have someone to look up to."

Some of the 40 to 50 student volunteers, dubbed "sponsors," signed up months ago at the Activity Fair. Others responded to Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler's campus-wide e-mail. Still others are filling community service requirements for fraternities. Today, it is young children, not professors, from whom these students will take orders in a magical four-hour period of child-adult role reversal.

Initially, upon arriving at the event, my intentions were strictly journalistic. I was to be a passive viewer obtruding on the festivities only to ask a question or two before melting back into the shadows, scribbling furiously.

While waiting, I saw a little girl in a brown jacket blinking sadly at the pandemonium. "Where are the people we're supposed to go with?" she asked plaintively. My resolve to remain detached weakened. I promised to find her and her brother a sponsor. But the scene was



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Children gather around Santa Claus at last Saturday's Green and Gold Christmas.

chaotic, with student volunteers just as bewildered as the children swamped the check-in table. "Okay," I said. "I'm the person you're supposed to go with."

The children beamed and trailed me to the line for the inflatable maze that occupied most of Chesapeake. The girl, wearing a T-shirt that said "Allergic to

School," was 7-year-old Brittany; the boy, sporting a Sponge Bob Squarepants shirt and an earring in his left ear, was 8-year-old Christian. The room was filled with the clamor of overjoyed children racing through the maze and playing tag

See **HALLS** page B2



COURTESY PHOTO • ANDREW SCHMADEL

Members of several student organizations join Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler and President Gene Nichol as Santa Claus for a rendition of the College's Alma Mater at last year's Yule Log celebration.

'Tis the season to forget about finals

By ELIZABETH DERBY
THE FLAT HAT

By 6 p.m. on Dec. 16, a winter night will have long claimed the sky over the ancient Christopher Wren Building. During this season of skeletal trees and frost-covered fields, Williamsburg seems to contract on itself. Tourists crowd into the Governor's Palace more tightly; students huddle closer in Swem's frigid corners. On this night, however, white clouds of mingled conversation will punctuate the early dark, and the solidarity of a student front against the cold will cement as candlelight rises in classroom windows across Old Campus.

Searching for warmth, students will

stand by one another, and as this year's Yule Log ceremony begins, they will be reminded of the joy in our presence, the gifts we have in the season, in our families, in each other.

"Yule Log is about our shared traditions, our connections," senior Laura Sauls said. "It really represents the feeling of community we are so proud of at William and Mary."

The Yule Log tradition is annually co-sponsored by Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa, a service and leadership fraternity. Sandwiched between two weeks of finals, at a time when the college experience may feel anything but joyous, the ceremony is designed to remind students that it is still a season of good cheer.

"Yule Log is one of those special William and Mary traditions," ODK Vice President

Amanda Nixon, a senior, said. "Finals can be a very stressful time period; students can be overwhelmed. This is an hour and a half when 100 students become one and we can be thankful for the season."

ODK and Mortar Board also encourage students to share their thanks through Penny Wars, a competitive fundraiser between social classes. Students participate by donating money in the University Center during the last week of classes. Donations will also be accepted at the ceremony itself.

This year, Building Tomorrow has been selected to receive funds. "The point of [Penny Wars] is to make the ceremony something more giving, not something we do for ourselves," Nixon said. "[Yule Log] becomes something

See **SEASON** page B3

SIRIUS dials in on satellite market

By VALERIE HOPKINS
THE FLAT HAT

During the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the purchase of a radio was a seminal event. Families gathered around gargantuan radio sets in the evenings to listen to wartime news, dramatic radio plays and presidential speeches on just a few frequencies.

Now, radios are everywhere from personal vehicles to alarm clocks to showers, and have access to myriad listening options. However, as evidenced by the rapidly growing popularity of satellite radio, it is still not enough.

Satellite radio is the ultimate paradox: complete standardization with the widest variety of options ever available. Due to this nascent satellite technology, it is now possible to drive from Tacoma, Wash. to Washington, D.C. without ever touching the dial, changing the station or encounter-

ing a second of advertisement. Satellite radio subscribers have a wide variety of stations to choose from; however, the stations do not vary from coast to coast, meaning listeners do miss out on the flavor that local DJs provide as well as information on events specific to their area.

Just as during the era of terrestrial broadcasting when titans like Infinity Broadcasting and Clear Channel Communications were being accused of stripping radio of its diversity, the medium of satellite radio began to develop as a competitor of the AM/FM giants. Two major companies currently dominate the market for satellite radio and vie for the exponentially growing number of listeners, XM Radio and SIRIUS Satellite Radio. Although XM boasts more listeners than SIRIUS, Business and Industry maga-

See **SIRIUS** page B3



COURTESY PHOTO • SIRIUS

Friends and professors: the new objects of (mostly platonic) affection

CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

You know she has class in Tucker Hall every Tuesday from 2 to 3:20 p.m. You're not a stalker, but maybe it would be totally cool to just hang around the Tucker steps between 3 and 3:30, you know, just to enjoy the breeze and a clove cigarette or two. Nothing suspicious there, except that you don't smoke clove cigarettes ... and there is no breeze.

At 3:30, she walks out, pulling her rolling suitcase full of books, chatting to another student. Why is she talking to that guy? That guy sucks! Oh, now she sees you. "Hi. I really enjoyed your last paper." Did she just say that? To you? Oh my God — your day is made. Nothing could make you happier. Your professor-crush has finally acknowledged you.

Yep, she's a professor. And, no, there is nothing wrong with that. In fact, the non-romantic crush seems to be popping up everywhere these days. Maybe it's just a

linguistics shift — people like using the word "crush." It no longer means that you have a romantic interest in the person; it just means you like them more than you like other people. "Crush" and "friend" are nearly synonymous. Or maybe the non-romantic crush signifies a change in attitudes; it's okay to have bizarre-o quasi-romantic feelings about a variety of people. We're a very loving little community here at the College; sometimes we just need to spread that love around. Either way, the non-romantic crush seems to be on its way up.

People talk about their friend-crushes, man-crushes, girl-crushes and even professor-crushes. These are fun because they're safe.

No one wants to marry these crushes or even sleep with them. This brand of crush not only removes the serious parts — the love, the potential heartbreak, yadda yadda yadda, but also allows people to show a lot of romantic-style interest. People with friend-crushes want to talk to the friend-crush, eat dinner with them and be favored by them over other people, in a (mostly) platonic way.

The man-crush and the girl-crush are similar to the general friend-crush, only braver. A guy who admits to having a man-crush admits to, and possibly even revels in, the same-sex attraction factor. The beauty of the man-crush lies in the fact that a burly, hairy, he-man can lovingly sing the praises of

another man and remain confident that this tiny, hyphenated term will save him from the teasing of his he-man friends. Just make sure the hyphen is there. You can't say, "Dude, Marcus is so cool. I totally have a crush on him," and not expect some light-hearted ribbing from your manly, hairy friends (who, by the way, think that beating people with broomsticks constitutes light-hearted ribbing, so watch out). But you can say, "Dude, Marcus is so cool and smart and he has fabulous fashion sense ... I totally have a man-crush on him." For some reason, asserting your manliness via a hyphenated term automatically means that you are not romantically interested in Marcus (even though he sounds fantastic to me and I recommend you jump on that).

The girl-crush follows the same sort of

See **AFFECTION** page B2

Variety
Calendar

Highlights of the week
— compiled by stephen knapp

On-Campus Events

♦ **InterVarsity** will be serving pancakes in the UC Centre Court today from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Various a cappella groups will accompany the free pancakes along with a raffle in which CDs, DVDs, and other various prizes will be given away to students.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, e-mail fhvrtv@wm.edu before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Area Concerts

♦ Tonight, **The Transmitters** will play at the Cary Street Cafe in Richmond at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3. **Fools and Horses** with special guest will also play in Richmond tonight at the Canal Club, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.thecanalclub.com for \$6. Tonight at the NorVa, rapper **Sizzla** will perform at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com for \$27.50. **Modern Groove Syndicate** will play tonight at the Wabi-Sabi from 9 p.m. until 12 a.m. for free. Tomorrow night at the same venue, **The McCormack Brothers** will play from 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. for free. Tomorrow night at the NorVa, **Innuendo Talent Showcase** will perform at 7 p.m. for \$10. Tomorrow night at the Canal Club, metal band **GWAR** will perform with **Municipal Waste** and **Red Chord**. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and tickets are available online in advance for \$20 and will be \$25 at the door.



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner

Horoscopes

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
The devil on your left shoulder will tell you to steal your roommate's Gushers this week, but the parrot on the right side will rat you out.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
It may be time to have your room fumigated this week when you open your desk drawer and two cockroaches tell you to mind your damn business.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Your ability to see into the future will prove inept this week when flying kangaroos with AK-47's in their pouches do not invade Williamsburg.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
Your recent inability to communicate with the world will leave you with a lot of missed voicemails and even more explaining to do.

Aries: March 21 - April 19
With Christmas at the forefront, you wonder whether Jesus would have wanted the wise men to bring him X-Box 360, Playstation 3, Nintendo Wii, or all three.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20
You will continue to advocate that it is the thought that counts until you get nothing and your parents tell you that they thought about what you might want.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21
With the temperature decreasing rapidly, you will go from wearing shorts to exclusively long johns and a highly suspicious ski-mask with a hole for only one eye.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Emmett Smith may seem to you like a good dancer amongst feeble human competition, but the real stars would moonwalk all over his face.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
Wrapping presents has always been your holiday downfall, but it does not compare to what your uncle struggles with every year: severe alcoholism.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Everyone will think you are a pederast this week when you duct-tape mistletoe to a pole and carry it around. Looking for a "new tonsil hockey" puck.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You've always believed that if man was able to do what he truly wanted, the world of professional Foosball would become drastically more competitive.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
While it's hard to get exactly what you want for Christmas, it would be faster than writing a letter if you pray to Jesus and see if he'll star-mail old Saint Nick.

..... compiled by stephen knapp

New objects of (mostly platonic) affection

AFFECTION from page B1

rules. You see a lot of this going on during sorority rush — spawner of the term "rush crush." Rush crush is cute and it rhymes, but girl-crushes continue long after recruitment ends. And, surprise surprise, even people who are not in sororities can have them. Girls are even allowed to take the platonic crush a little further than their hairy, manly counterparts: They set up "dates," they cuddle, they watch romantic movies together. It's all very teen-boy, comic-nerd fantasy (although they do remain fully clothed, and they have no mutant superpowers ... that you know of).

Perhaps the greatest of all platonic crushes is the professor-crush. Everyone has one. There's a

prime professor-crush candidate in nearly every academic department (even math, I think), and it's not always the one who has nine chili peppers next to her name on Ratemyprofessor.com. She's just that one who is funny and smart and reasonable. Your professor-crush is the one that you daydream will one day stand up in front of the class and announce her wish to adopt you or at least to take you on as a personal protege. Your professor-crush could be teaching a class called, "Hey, what's in my ear today?" and you'd still take it. And like it.

You always work extra hard for your professor-crush — not because you actually care about the class, but because you just want that professor to like you. The goal is not to get an "A," it's to get invited out to dinner, or, better yet, to the Leaf. Maybe your girl-crush will be there too, and that friend-crush guy from your seminar and you can all drink together into the wee hours. And there is nothing weird or polygamous about that.

Lauren Bell is the Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She checks Ratemyprofessor.com frequently to monitor the chili pepper status of her favorite professors.

Interested in writing
That Guy/Girl?

E-mail fhvrtv@wm.edu

Left Brain/Right Brain

Rebus Puzzles



Directions: A rebus is a picture representation of a name, word or phrase. Each rebus puzzle above portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess the expression that each brainteaser represents?

Source: niehs.nih.gov

Sudoku

9			6					
2	7			8				6
	8	6		4	3	1	9	2
	9			1	6	5		
		5				2		
		3	4	5			7	
7	5	9	1	6		4	8	
3				7			2	5
				5				9

Last Week's Solution

5	2	6	1	3	4	9	8	7
1	3	9	7	8	5	6	2	4
4	8	7	6	2	9	1	5	3
7	5	3	2	9	6	8	4	1
9	6	1	4	5	8	3	7	2
8	4	2	3	7	1	5	6	9
3	9	4	5	6	2	7	1	8
2	7	5	8	1	3	4	9	6
6	1	8	9	4	7	2	3	5

Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each three-by-three block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.
Source: crazydad.com

Deck the halls with Green and Gold

HALLS from page B1

around its edges. Sophomore Melissa McReynolds began a literal day-long chase after her ward, Keyshaun, 7, whose shirt bore the ironic slogan "Handsome Little Devil."

"These guys will never run out of energy," one sponsor wryly observed as his six children dragged him into the maze.

Even the enormous, lion-shaped inflatable bounce pit in Tidewater seemed to only double the children's energy rather than expend it. A few were stationary long enough to make a pit stop at the arts and crafts tables ringing the lion, where one girl finished a homemade Christmas card: a sheet of black paper with the red-glitter entreaty: "I love you mom. Can you get me a sell phone?"

Brittany and Christian doodled for a while, then discovered the ball-toss in the hallway, where kids lined up by the dozen to toss wads of taped paper through a Christmas tree cut-out — for prizes, of course. Brittany walked away from this game bedecked in a trio of temporary tattoos. As I applied the third — a sleigh — to her cheek, I asked if she'd like a real tattoo one day. "A dragon. No, a princess," she amended.

It's one of the subtle signs, like the sporadic use of "ain't," that these children come from a different background than the average student at the College. When I asked Christian if he plays sports, he told me he wants to play football, but that it's too expensive. Their mother is unemployed and



CHELSEA RUDMAN • THE FLAT HAT
Brittany was one of the 160 children to participate in Green and Gold.



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
The Christmas celebration in the UC included numerous activities and stations.

there is brief mention of an older brother the two rarely see. McDuff will later tell me that for many of these children, Green and Gold Christmas is the only Christmas. This was the case for one applicant this year, she recalled, whose mother wrote on her child's permission slip that her husband recently lost his Social Security benefits, and it is unlikely they will be able to afford many presents for their children.

At lunchtime, as the children devoured hot dogs and potato chips, McDuff announced that Santa Claus had arrived. A hundred voices squealed, temporarily drowning out the jangling, early-'90s remix of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" blaring over the speakers. Standing in the long line outside Chesapeake, the children eyed the beardless Santa with suspicion. "He's not real," Brittany pouted. But she and Christian forgot questions of authenticity when they reached the front of the line, asking with near-reverence for a Game Boy and a mini-motorcycle, respectively.

The best I could offer them was bags of dollar store goodies, pre-assembled as handouts for all the children. Keyshaun, in line behind us with a breathless McReynolds, declared, "I hope I get me a pistol!" His wish came true — among the treats inside his and Christian's "boy" bags of goodies were, indeed, plastic toy guns. Hundreds of suction-tipped darts immediately filled the air.

Brittany, in the meantime, tired quickly of the plastic jewelry in her bag and dug out a set of pink plastic nails, asking me to glue them over her real ones. Bottle of Elmer's in hand, I was reminded of third-grade sleepover parties. As a token of our girly bonding, Brittany pressed the second package of nails — these ones bright blue — into my hands.

At this point, near 2 p.m., the initial thrill of the games and inflatables began to wear off. Even Keyshaun had settled into a game of catch. It's about this time that I escorted the children on a semi-illicit field trip to The Daily Grind, where Brittany seized on my coffee to recharge her flagging energy.

Though tiring, the children seem reluctant to leave. "Can we come back tomorrow?" a boy wearing an inside-out white tee and sporting a rocking horse tattoo on his forehead asked.

Brittany popped a similar question: "Will you be here tomorrow?"

"I will," I explained, "but you're not coming back tomorrow."

"Oh," she said.

In the Chesapeake Rooms, we all bid a goodbye that was surprisingly anti-climactic for a group that had spent the day sharing the universal joy of toy guns and fake jewelry. Watching the maze deflate and janitors scrape hot dog pieces off the Chesapeake carpet, I decided that if bonding over plastic nails and craft glue isn't what Christmas is all about, then I don't know what is.



That Guy

Sam Bandstra

By TEGAN NEUSTAITER
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Becoming a piece of human sculpture might not be your idea of a good time, but it is for Sam Bandstra. The improv exercise “Museum of Modern Art” is only one of many hysterical games in the repertoire of Improvisational Theatre, in which Sam is the sole senior. He extends his off-the-cuff humor to his tours of the Christopher Wren Building, one of his job requirements as a proctor and member of the Spotswood Society. This week, this history major and funny man tells us about the Wren Chapel cross controversy, the Beer and Conversation Club and the story of Saint Norbert and the deadly spider.

What’s your thesis?

I’m translating a 12th-century Latin saint’s life. I’m analyzing it and how it embodies or doesn’t embody the ideas of 12th-century theology. Last semester, I was working on a paper and talking with Professor [Alison] Beach of the religious studies department. I told her I was interested in monasticism, so she told me she had this great book that was in Latin that nobody had ever used before. It was about this guy called Saint Norbert. Yeah, Saint Norbert, great name. I ended up using the book for part of a paper, and I was like, “Actually, I’d really like to do more research on it.”

Saint Norbert becomes this wandering preacher who creates this order of monks. He had a cool story. He was preparing to give Mass and he was filling the cup. This was right around the time when the idea that the wine actually turns into Christ’s blood was becoming popular. Right after he finishes transubstantiating it, this poisonous spider supposedly comes down from the ceiling of the cathedral, 100 feet up, and lands in the wine. The priest has to take the first drink, and he couldn’t just throw out the wine because he believed that it was Christ’s blood. So he drinks it and drinks the spider. He stands up there like, “I’m going to die. This is it.” All of a sudden his nose twitches and he sneezes and sneezes out the spider. So he survives and all is good.

As a member of the Spotswood Society, you give tours of the Wren Building. How do you feel about the Wren Chapel cross controversy?

I think people got a little worked up over it. Technically, it’s historically inaccurate for it to have been there. It was donated to the school in the 1930s from Bruton Parish. But I’m not crazy about the precedent it sets of removing a cross from a chapel. If it’s going to be acceptable anywhere, it’s got to be in a chapel. Part of the school’s history was training

Anglican ministers. You have to have some respect for that. It’s unfortunate that a symbol of Christianity offends people, because it’s not meant to. I know I personally wouldn’t be offended if I went to what used to be a mosque and there was a crescent moon or what used to be a synagogue and there was a Star of David. I don’t see why people need to be offended by that. I see both sides and I understand both sides, but I just want to stop having my name and face in the paper, because I got yelled at a tailgate by a 50-year-old man. I’m waiting to get hate mail.

So when you’re not doing all of this history-related stuff, you’re running Improvisational Theatre. How long have you been performing improv?

I used to do a lot of plays in elementary, middle and high school. I think I did improv once on some church retreat some time in high school. I came here and I saw improv and I thought, “Oh, that’s funny.” My friend was like, “Actually, you’d be really good at that,” so I tried out and made call-backs but didn’t get in. One of the kids who was in IT and a junior at the time talked to me afterward and told me he didn’t make it the first time and to try next year. So I tried out the next year and made it, and now I run the whole shebang.

What’s your favorite IT game?

I really like our long-form stuff. If you give us a word of inspiration, we’ll do a 40-minute thing where characters come back and forth. My favorite game that we play is probably “Messages.” You leave, the audience writes messages, you come back and put them in your back pocket. You do your scene, and you’ll be like “As my pappy used to say ...” and you pull out something. You’ll be doing a scene about, I don’t know, climbing a mountain and the message will say something about pudding. Then you have to incorporate that into the scene and make it work.

I heard that you’re in a club called Beer and Conversation.

It was a thing started by some people who graduated last year. It’s a bunch of guys who get together and have some beer. The joke is that whoever is hosting it says, “I’ll bring the beer, you bring the conversation.” It’s just hanging out; usually crazy stuff happens. Last year my friend Dan and I were walking over to the sailing house and he stopped to use a Porta-Potty near Barrett. I pushed it over with him in it. Then somebody dropped their cell phone in the toilet this year. The B&C alumni will come back and check up on us, which is really obnoxious. We had a B&C reunion at Homecoming. The founders said that in 20 years they hope to come back and find the guys who are still doing it.

Past flames haunt love lives

They seem to be everywhere, hiding and waiting for the right moment to jump up and scare you, just like a bad horror movie. Not aliens, robots or psychotic, homicidal cheerleaders, but ghosts

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate Prengaman

Ghosts — they come in all shapes and sizes. Some are simply shaped like your exes. Maybe you meet someone who looks or acts like an ex, and you’ve got to deal with that ghost. It’s stupid and shallow, but we’ve all been in that situation where you are less than 100 percent open to a new person because he or she reminds you of an unpleasant past. And they aren’t always former significant others, but former friends, or even that bitch you couldn’t stand in high school English that can create ghosts. Worse than ghosts, I guess, would be if you are still dealing with the actual people and they are continuing to scare you. But, for the sake of this column, we’re going to stick to the ghosts of relationships past.

Ghosts can travel in the tiniest forms — little reminders of the most trivial things. A simple nervous habit, like leg-twitching can send you flying back down memory lane to the last time you were on a couch with an important person in your life whose leg always twitched. Larger trivial things, like finding someone new with the same name or the same obsession with the Redskins can also be pretty haunting. You know that it’s superficial, but if it creates a situation in which you can’t shake those memories, the past is clearly interfering with your present and probably with your future.

Sometimes, the ghosts are more vague and nameless. Instead of being haunted by a vision of your last love specifically, you can find ghosts appearing in abstract situations. For example, if you disagree about how much time to spend talking to each other on the phone, and a similar subject was a significant cause of fighting in a previous relationship, it can start haunting your current situation, too. On the other hand, ghosts aren’t always bad. If someone reminds you of a previous love, there are obvious reasons that you might fall for them: they possess qualities to which you are attracted. Conversely, they might be warning you



of a previous mistake so that you don’t get hurt again.

Sometimes it’s not your ghosts, but your partner’s that start haunting you. If your new girlfriend talks about her ex frequently, it can start to feel as if you’ve stumbled into a threesome, and clearly not the hot kind. Ranging from the “still not really over him rage” to the “ex still sitting on a pedestal” stories, there are a lot of things you just don’t want to hear about their past while considering your own future. It’s hard though, because while some people want to put their past — good and bad — behind them, plenty of other people not only want to talk about their past experiences, but they also want to hear about their new partner’s.

More often than not, relationship ghosts are large and looming when the pain of a past relationship is still fresh in your mind. Everyone needs different amounts of time to heal and move on, and there’s no sense in trying to fight through the ghosts when they’ve still got you surrounded. That’s partially why it’s important to take some time off between relationships, so that you can clearly draw a line between your past and your present, and sprinkle it with salt or something superstitious so the ghosts can’t cross it.

Sure, maybe you’ll never be rid of all your ghosts. You live and you learn, and you’ll always carry memories of things that were important in your life with you, so you can’t expect to live ghost-free.

But, what do you do if you’re desperately in need of the Ghostbusters? Traditional methods don’t work as well when the heart is involved. The easy answer is to just live in the moment and ignore your ghosts. But in some ways, that’s also a naive answer, and the truth is that everyone deals with their ghosts in different ways. Acknowledging your past and how it has shaped who you are, without letting it rule your present or your future, is one of those individual pre-requisites to building a new relationship that works.

Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She ain’t afraid of no ghost.

SIRIUS dials in on satellite market

SIRIUS from page B1

zine asserts that SIRIUS is expanding at a faster pace. Currently, the two companies together total approximately 11 million listeners, a significant number, but nowhere close to the average of 230 million weekly listeners that local radio stations receive nationwide, according to Arbitron, the radio ratings provider.

SIRIUS has grown at an astonishing rate. The company launched in July 2002. By late 2004, SIRIUS’ listeners still numbered only 60,000. When Howard Stern signed a \$500 million deal in October 2004, that number rose to 600,000 strong. Less than two years later, SIRIUS now boasts more than 5 million subscribers. This increase marked a very dramatic growth in a short period of time.

SIRIUS, which promotes itself as “the best radio on radio,” boasts over 130 channels, including 69 featuring commercial-free music, and is the only radio station that broadcasts everything from the NFL as well as over 40 NBA and NHL games a week.

Steve Blatter, the senior vice president for music programming for SIRIUS, said that the company is successful because of its variety and exclusive content.

“We have an incredible number of niche channels, so there is something for everyone, like Elvisradio, which plays Elvis 24/7,” he said. “We also have MaximRadio, and Shade45, a station where Eminem picks all of the music, or Margaritaville, a Jimmy Buffet station. This is important because, for instance, in New York City, there is not a single alternative rock station or country music station.”

SIRIUS has also signed exclusive deals for original programming with Martha Stewart, Jimmy Buffet and Tony Hawk, not to mention its five-year contract with Stern.

SIRIUS and XM continue to make new exclusive deals to solidify their hold on the market. For instance, SIRIUS radios are currently offered as accessory options in vehicles manufactured by several automobile companies ranging from Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz to Chrysler, Dodge and Ford. This trend extends to the rental car market as well — Hertz currently offers SIRIUS in its rental vehicles at major locations around the country.

And that’s not all. In the battle to control this burgeoning market, the innovations just keep coming. SIRIUS recently launched Internet Radio, offering the same services online. Car subscribers still have the option of listening to SIRIUS online, but now it is possible to buy an internet subscription for over 75 channels of 100 percent commercial-



COURTESY PHOTO • BETHEMEDIA.COM
Howard Stern’s show is one of the features that has contributed to SIRIUS Radio’s growing popularity.

free music, sports and talk radio. Internet radio caters to listeners who want to listen to the radio in more places than just their car, or those who do not drive regularly.

In further attempts to make itself accessible absolutely anywhere, SIRIUS recently came out with the Stiletto 100, a portable, iPod-size device that receives transmissions from SIRIUS satellites. The Stiletto also allows the owner to store up to 100 hours of tunes in MP3 or WMA format.

The satellite market is no longer a secret, and as is to be expected, competitor companies are trying- to edge their way into the radio niche market. Motorola has jumped on the concept of satellite radio in a new way. In addition to offering an internet radio service, which it calls “I-Radio,” Motorola allows customers to listen to a combination of up to six stations or playlists through their mobile phone.

The past five years have seen the boom of an industry that has been free for almost 100 years. Billions of dollars have been spent on talent and programming and consumers keep on signing up. This is just one of the components of the increase of technology and information at people’s fingertips, and it appears that it will continue to expand globally.

History prof unearths folk legend

FOLK LEGEND from page B1

Born in 1847, Henry was from New Jersey, but came to Virginia when recruited for the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, Henry stayed to reside in Virginia, but as an African-American quickly realized the inefficacy of the Reconstruction. Soon thereafter he was prosecuted under the Virginia Black Codes, laws made specifically to punish African Americans, and was incarcerated at the Richmond, Va. state penitentiary. The penitentiary leased him to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal as an unpaid laborer.

It was in his tenure as a railway laborer that Henry would earn his fame. The many convicts condemned to repairing and laying tracks would sing songs to pass the time, songs that would endure for generations to come. Nelson estimates the songs were transmitted orally for at least 40 years prior

to being popularized in country music. The recurrent theme in these work tunes, normally hummed and sung to the cadence of hammering, was to slow the pace of life. Many workmen carried the motto that if you worked too hard, you would kill yourself — quite literally.

Hundreds of railway workers, including Henry, were eventually killed by what they called “consumption,” a condition we now know as acute silicosis. Granulated rock and metal produced from detonating rocks to clear passage for railways would accumulate in workers’ lungs and internal organs and inevitably kill them. With Nelson’s discovery that Henry’s remains were among the hundreds of unidentified workers buried under the penitentiary, he revealed not only the history of one man but of so many like him whose fleeting lives have faded from history.

One of Nelson’s greatest obstacles was the organization of the

book. He defied the history code of writing in the third person and chose to write Henry’s story in the first person. Nelson said that the first person tense better conveyed the investigative experience of Henry’s historical quest, making the book “more interesting, fun and accessible.” Nelson also said that he wanted to appeal to a broader audience and opted to narrate the book to make it more relatable to readers.

Even before the release of “Steel Drivin’ Man,” Henry’s life has permeated American historical culture and music. Long-revered in country and bluegrass music, Henry has been the subject of songs by artists ranging from Bruce Springsteen to Van Morrison. Nelson said he is thrilled with the surprising success of his book and considers it an examination of and tribute to the life of a man whose mystique has finally been unveiled.

Tis the season to forget about finals

SEASON from page B1

we do as a college for the greater good.” Generosity is the basis of holiday spirit, and the season is a time to show appreciation for one another. By participating in the ceremony of the Yule Log, students will be embracing sentiments that have been a part of the College for over 70 years.

The Yule Log ceremony debuted in 1930 when Dr. Grace Landrum, dean of women at the College, orchestrated an elaborate ceremony with boars’ heads, burning logs and a cast of actors in colonial garb including the president. Today, while the ceremony is less elaborate the rituals are just as cheer-inducing.

“I love that Yule Log comes at a time of stress because the students need it,” Nixon explained. “Vice

President [for Student Affairs Sam] Sadler’s rendition of ‘The Night Before Finals’ is always hilarious, and I don’t think there’s another college that gets to see their president in a Santa suit. This is absolutely not to be missed.”

The Yule Log ceremony appeals to all faiths, touching upon a host of religious and cultural practices from the lighting of the menorah as a celebration of Hanukkah to the singing of carols by the William and Mary Choir and The Gentlemen of the College. Ramadan, Kwanzaa and Diwali are also addressed in the ceremony. As always, students will be invited to brush the Yule log with a sprig of holly as it passes through the crowd, in remembrance of the stresses and hardships of the year past, before casting the sprig into the Great Hall’s roaring fireplace. Refreshments and general



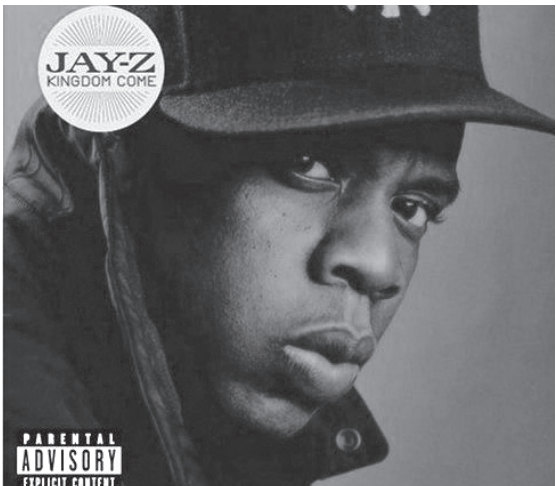
COURTESY PHOTO • ROSE HESS
Past woes and exam worries will be purged in the Wren Great Hall.

meriment are also on the agenda. Come to the Wren Building on the side facing the Sunken Garden at 6 p.m. Dec. 16 to experience this College tradition for yourself. Bring your gloves, hat and the people who are a reason for giving thanks during the holidays.

REVIEWS



This Lizzie McGuire wants nothing to do with her 27 year-old ex-boyfriend. See Gossip, page B6



‘Kingdom’ comes with arrogance

By ALEXANDER ELY
FLAT HAT ASST. VARIETY EDITOR

Ten years after his debut album, “Reasonable Doubt,” signified his arrival in the heyday of hip-hop music and three years after the culmination of his career, “The Black Album” announced his departure from the declining rap world, Jay-Z returned this November with his eighth full-length album, “Kingdom Come.” If anyone has grown after years of hustling, composing and achieving stardom in the music industry, it would certainly be Jay-Z. And if any work should reflect this voyage, it would undoubtedly be “Kingdom Come.”

The Brooklyn-born emcee’s maturation shines through on his newest album. It opens with “The Prelude,” where Jay explains his mind-state and tumultuous relationship with the lifestyle that may have both led him to his three-year hiatus from the charts and now brings him back to the studio. His lyrics flow smoothly, methodically and passionately, at one point directly addressing rap as if it were the subject of a love song: “Forget this rap shit I need a new hustle / A little bit of everything, a new improved Russell / I say that reluctantly cause I do struggle / As you see I can’t leave so I do love you.”

The first three tracks, produced by Just Blaze, sound like the Jay-Z of old, although his lyrics lack the desire and grit that catapulted him to the top over the last decade (“Big Pimpin’” excluded). On the title track, Jay labels himself hip-hop royalty, with the chorus proclaiming his return as messiah-like: “King of New York / Not only NYC I’m hip-hop’s savior / So after this flow you might owe me a favor.”

I’m not sure how much of a favor we really owe him. The album as a whole is difficult to approach. In terms of what the self-proclaimed “King of New York” is capable of, it falls short — in fact, it’s borderline miserable — compared to his other works. With little left to prove, the album is nowhere near as brilliant as “Reasonable Doubt,” “The Black Album” or “The Blueprint,” but few would expect that it would be.

That being said, his lyrics are still 10 times better than those of any other hip-hop artist on the radio or on MTV. Regardless of how catchy or lap dance-conducive recent radio hits have been, Jay-Z still finds a way to make the majority of today’s mainstream rappers look like they’re still fighting to finish kindergarten English.

This observation is not to imply that the club-bangers are not present — they are, most notably on the album’s first single “Show Me What Ya Got” — but these are few in number, and overall the album features a respectable variety of beats and topics of varying complexity and sincerity.

After starting off strong, the subsequent tracks on “Kingdom Come,” with a few exceptions, are relatively disappointing. John Legend’s harmonious vocals do little to save “Do U Wanna Ride?” and the hopelessly tacky and sugar-coated “Anything,” featuring Usher and

See ‘KINGDOM’ page B6

Artsy nature drowns ‘Fountain’

By BETH SUTHERLAND
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Too often the movie industry yields to the demands of easy entertainment and profit-making, offering its viewers factory plotlines and traditional cinematic conventions. Like book publishing, graphic design and the fashion industry, cinema faces the difficult task of balancing artistic innovation with commercial demands. When a film rolls around that proves top-heavy with what the less affected like to call “artsy-fartsy-ness,” it tends to receive mixed reactions. This is certainly the case with Darren Aronofsky’s “The Fountain.” Starring Hugh Jackman (“The Prestige”) and Rachel Weisz (“The Constant Gardner”), the film offers an otherworldly visual orgy and has made a very unique and innovative contribution to the ever-slighted fantasy/sci-fi genre. Though the film does not attain total success, it at least proposes a different way of treating plot and imagery.

The story follows the relationship between a husband and his dying wife. As she comes to terms with her imminent demise and becomes increasingly serene, her scientist husband grows more and more frantic in his search for a cure. His fatalistic belief that love dies with the body leads him to try to prevent her death regardless of the cost. As he attempts a naturalistic conquest of death, she journeys inward and writes a book. The book becomes a loose basis for the movie’s semi-successful, but very artistic, threefold structure. Her tale begins in 16th century Spain, moves to Central America and ends inside the nebula surrounding the dying star that

the Mayans claimed as the site of their afterlife. The present-time action is also woven into the mix. Yeah; it’s that weird. Now, this creative setup has the potential to dazzle — but it falls just short. The three sets of protagonists are supposed to represent the same people, but are just different enough to render the film mediocre in its craftsmanship. More advantage could

have been taken with the novelty of this refreshingly nonlinear structure. Instead, the film is boring where it should have blown away viewers.

One cannot help but think that “The Fountain” would have made a better book or graphic novel than movie. Its incredibly complex structure keeps the viewer intrigued, but hardly possesses enough cohesiveness to permit this complexity. Rather than a logical story, however, the film attempts to throw metaphysical profundities at its viewers in a surreal, mystical way. It explores the themes of love and mortality, but fails to say anything new about them. It is possible that the writers thought that the film’s visual and structural boldness would redeem its lack of originality, but the boring, at times even conflicting, messages still damage the would-be novelty of the entire movie. Aside from simply recycling overarching thematic concepts, the film also gorges itself on a number of different symbolic and mystical devices. Though rife with this ethereal imagery and utilizing the entire universe as its setting, the story seems very small and boxed-in, offering no universal commentary on much of anything except for the goodness of love and the pain of death — like we needed “The Fountain” to tell us that. One would think that a story pregnant with so many spiritual components wouldn’t feel so darned atheistic, but it does. The tree of life, the immortality of love, the Mayan concept of rebirth, Buddhist monastic imagery, the pursuit of knowledge, Adam and Eve — all are crammed together and interwoven in the space of a couple of hours. Perhaps that’s why the film does not entirely work: there are too many conflicting religious icons to produce something spiritually meaningful. In a bitter sort of irony, “The Fountain” seems to flaunt



COURTESY PHOTO • WARNER BROS.

Hugh Jackman stars as Tommy Creo (Top) and Tomas in Darren Aronofsky’s new thriller “The Fountain.” Jackman plays love interest to Rachel Weisz’s Izzi and Queen Isabel, respectively.

See ‘FOUNTAIN’ page B6

Sci-fi thriller ‘Déjà Vu’ surprisingly fresh

By MOHAMMAD RAHMAN
THE FLAT HAT

Is time one stream of continuous action or are there parallel instances of time occurring that can bring the past and the present together? That is the question “Déjà Vu,” the techno thriller from the team that made “Spy Game” and “Crimson Tide,” attempts to answer. The high concept film stars Denzel Washington (“The Manchurian Candidate”) as ATF Agent Doug Carlin, reuniting the Oscar-winner with director Tony Scott after their work together in the 2004 flick “Man on Fire.”

The film takes place in New Orleans during Mardi Gras, one year after Hurricane Katrina. The USS Nimitz, carrying crewmen and their families, is blown up in the water and Agent Carlin is sent to investigate the terrorist attack. While investigating, Carlin receives a tip that the body of a dead woman, Claire Kuchever (Paula Patton, “Idlewild”), was found an hour before

the attack and may hold the key to the case. The FBI, impressed with Carlin’s skills, recruit him for a special project.

While doing research at Cambridge, the FBI finds a way to fold space and time, creating a bridge between the past and present. They only use the bridge for surveillance because their attempts at sending people back in time prove unsuccessful. However, Agent Carlin wants to see that changed. Will Agent Carlin find the perpetrators behind the terrorist attacks? Will he be able to find the murderer of Kuchever, a woman with whom he inadvertently falls in love? Those are just some of the questions the movie attempts to answer.

The acting in the film does not produce any breakthrough roles. However, all the actors do more than an adequate job. Washington is in fine form playing a role he has played many times before: a loner, fighting for truth and justice while looking to avenge the murder of his love. Val Kilmer (“Top

Gun”), as head FBI Agent Andrew Pryzwara, plays his role equally as well, though it does look like he has packed on a few pounds (Val, you still have many films left in you, buddy, so watch your weight). Patton, as the doomed love interest of Washington, plays her role with enough subtlety to invoke sympathy from the viewer. The rest of the cast rounds out Washington well, with veterans such as Adam Goldberg (“A Beautiful Mind”), Elden Henson (“The Butterfly Effect”) and Bruce Greenwood (“Capote”) who run the time-space project. They contribute necessary explanation, drama and humor when needed.

Since “Déjà Vu” is a Tony Scott film, the cinematography obviously stands out. Scott continues his tradition of using a sepia-like tone, giving the film a very bright orange feel. The action scenes are handled adequately, especially the car chase involving present day agent Carlin chasing Carroll Oerstadt — a haunting performance by Jim Caviezel

(“Frequency”) — in the past at 100 miles per hour. With everything going at break-neck speed, it is hard to ask questions. The viewer would do best to just accept this and enjoy the ride.

Besides the action, the science fiction theory works well in the film. If the concept feels a little familiar, that’s because it is. Paul Anderson’s 1997 sci-fi horror film, “Event Horizon,” had a similar premise of bending space and time, but that movie took it in a completely different direction. Don’t worry that the sci-fi element of “Déjà Vu” feels confusing, it really isn’t. The script explains it well, and there is enough going on to distract the viewer from the few plot holes.

“Déjà Vu” is an entertaining two hours full of action, suspense, drama and all that good stuff looked for in quality escapism. The film has just enough of an edge to let it stand out from other films in the market right now. Ironical that a film titled “Déjà Vu” gives a feeling of anything but.

Some outside-the-box ideas for catching your fave TV shows

Keeping up with our favorite television shows is a tough task for college students. Sometimes that late night astronomy lab prevents us from making it home in time to catch “The Office,” or that paper might never get done if we take an hour out of our night to watch the latest episode of “Desperate Housewives.”

Fortunately, the great ally of the undergraduate has come to our aid yet again. From the source that brought us Facebook, YouTube and weather.com — the internet — we now have the option of watching our favorite TV shows online.

The online television industry is small but growing, and even now there are a few options from which to choose when settling down at your computer to watch a show. A handful of networks, following the lead of MTV and shortly thereafter picked up by ABC, are offering free streaming of their most popular programs on their network websites. The shows are usually available

about 24 hours after they originally air and the networks vary in how long they keep the shows available. While this option has the advantage of being completely free, it does have its setbacks. Video streaming can be a frustrating process, especially for those with a spotty wireless connection. The picture often stalls and sometimes flakes out altogether. You also aren’t safe from commercials; the episode is broken up into a few segments with 30-second commercials between each one.

These are still minor inconveniences compared to the nearly 10 minutes of commercials you have to suffer through while watching a show at its regular airing time. The networks may be sacrificing a lot of revenue by making shows available on the internet and it’s nice to know that you can at least minimize the browser on your desktop and play a quick game of Minesweeper while the commercial runs.

Nonetheless, commercials can be

avoided altogether by coughing up \$1.99 for an episode on iTunes. This option has its drawbacks too, including a wait time that can stretch to 20 minutes, depending on the speed of your connection. You also have to pay, and once they have your credit card number, it is all too easy to get sucked into the money-hole that is a convenient iTunes account. Still, the price is reasonable and you don’t have to stick around while it’s downloading. Plus, once you’ve paid, you can watch it offline and have access to it forever.

Opening an iTunes account is most likely your best bet, especially if you like television shows on networks like Fox, which does not yet offer free access to shows on its website. If you give up the notion that you will ever leave your weekly Thursday meeting in time to catch “Grey’s Anatomy,” you can save yourself some money and buy a “season pass,” which pays for the entire season ahead of time.

While there is still only a limited selection of shows available online through either method, things are looking up. Microsoft recently announced that TV shows can soon be downloaded at the Xbox Live website to be watched on a TV screen. Even the former mecca of illegal video downloading, BitTorrent, is in talks with networks to provide authorized videos — at a price.

The CW is one network that has yet to jump on the Internet bandwagon, so if you’re a “Gilmore Girls” fan you might be best off investing in TiVo. While the industry is still developing, its future looks bright. Television might not be headed toward obsolescence, but for the busy college student it is finally time to throw out the TV Guide because TV is now ready to rot your brain cells at whatever time is most convenient for you.

Brittney Pescatore is a senior at the College. She enjoys watching TV the most when avoiding work on her thesis.

CRITICAL CONDITION



Brittney Pescatore



SINGLED OUT
The Shins — “Phantom Limb”
From his *Wincing the Night Away* LP

The band that changed lives in the film “Garden State” with its amazing song, “New Slang,” is back. “Phantom Limb,” the first single off of the band’s new album, “Wincing the Night Away,” proves the band hasn’t lost a step.
— *compiled by Conor McKay*

iTUNES TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Get Even* — **The Evens**
2. *I Killed the Monster* — **Various Artists**
3. *Beach House* — **Beach House**
4. *Awoo* — **The Hidden Cameras**
5. *Paper Television* — **The Blow**
6. *The Lost Take* — **Dosh**
7. *Friends of Old-Time Music* — **Various Artists**
8. *Tall Hands* — **Tall Hands**
9. *The Truth in Me* — **Roger O’Donnell**
10. *Entomology* — **Josef K**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

Eww! ... She did it again

Just weeks after launching her new image, a slimmer, fabulously single Britney Spears has already begun the inevitable return to her white-trash roots. Five days of intense L.A. clubbing, partying and shopping with Paris Hilton and they’re new BFFs. Taking a lesson from that other talented-beyond-belief singer/actress, Brit has somehow managed to flash paparazzi cameras — sometimes sans panties — no fewer than three times in five days.



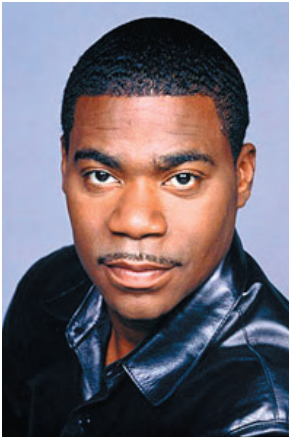
Third time’s not the charm

Apparently Pam Anderson no longer feels like makin’ love —not to Kid Rock anyway. The blonde bombshell filed for divorce from the American Bad Ass citing “irreconcilable differences.” Sources say that major reasons for the break-up include Kid’s “male insecurity and anger issues” and the movie “Borat,” in which Anderson plays the object of Borat’s affection. God only knows why the couple deigned to not sign a pre-nup — the four month marriage was the third time the couple was married. To each other.



Coming Clean

Hilary Duff and Joel Madden are so yesterday. Duff woke up and realized the eight year split between the 19 year old pop-star and her 27 year old rocker boyfriend was causing problems and that after nearly two and a half years together, they were just holding on. Ten days after the fact, Madden decided to come clean about the split while at Chicago club. He didn’t seem to let the little things bother him, dancing and partying with various women throughout the night.



30-rocked

Tracy Morgan was busted early Tuesday for driving under the influence. According to Manhattan police, he was “unable to maintain a position in a lane of traffic.” Morgan told police he had been drinking beer at a club prior to getting in his car and attempting to drive it. Morgan’s latest arrest could be considered a violation of his probation, which he received for another DUI conviction last year. If so, he could face jail time.

— *compiled by Alice Hahn and Chas Tyson*

WCWM 90.9 FM
Fall 2006
PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
Mid.-2 a.m.: James Chase Coleman
“Freedom of Music”
2-4 p.m.: Anne Gessler
“Music from Under Anne’s Bed”
4-6 p.m.: Mika Mason
“Naive Melody”
6-8 p.m.: Barbara Zidek
8-10 p.m.: Matt Sherrill
“Stop Drop and Soul”

10 p.m. - Mid.: Chris Larkum
“100% Natural, Good Time Family Hour”
MONDAY
6-8 p.m.: Jacob Charron
“A Veritable Cornucopia of Sound”
8-10 p.m.: Diane O’neal
10 p.m. - Mid.: Rob Simmons
“Continuum Presents”

TUESDAY
2-4 p.m.: Evan Feldman
“Colonial Classics”
4-6 p.m.: Kate Leary
6-8 p.m.: Sean Donnelly
“Measured Measures”
8-10 p.m.: Drew Taylor
“The Gilded Palace of Sin”
10 p.m. - Mid.: Josh Specht and David Sievers

WEDNESDAY
10-Noon: Graham DeZarn
12-2 p.m.: Emily Flowers
“World Music”
2-3 p.m.: Eric Van Orman
4-6 p.m.: Michelle Kelley
“Jojo’s Punk Rock Hour”
6-8 p.m.: John Bell
“Alphabet Soup”
8-10 p.m.: Claire White

“Soundgasm”
10 p.m. - Mid.: Brian Kelley
“Cadmium’s Last Stand”
THURSDAY
6-8 p.m.: Natt Blair
“The Conspiracy to Keep You Poor and Stupid”
10 p.m.-12: Taurin Barrera
“Nasty Boy Remix”

FRIDAY
2-4 p.m.: Patrick Donaldson
“Shakedown Street”
5-6 p.m.: Sandy Lesberg
“Sandy Lesberg’s World”
8-10 p.m.: Rob Simmons
“Pre-Game Show”
SATURDAY
2-4 p.m.: Andy Beers and David McClendon

“The Massive Saxophone”
4-6 p.m.: Devin Oller
“Word Play”
6-8 p.m.: M.A. Rodabaugh
“Mood Swing”
8-10 p.m.: Josh Allen
“All Your Base Are Belong To Us”
10 p.m.-12.: Adam Kane

Aronofsky slips up with ‘Fountain’

‘FOUNTAIN’ from page B4

a murky sort of humanistic spirituality. Though the movie ends with the idea that love survives into eternity and death is something to be embraced, it leaves its audience somewhat depressed rather than stimulated or uplifted.

If one can, however, sit back and accept the movie’s bizarre alternate universe for fantasy’s sake, then the rest of the film’s cleverness and beauty are easier to see. Though hugely imperfect, “The Fountain” does wonders with nonlinear plotlines and provides a more poignant, challenging and compelling movie-going experience than one usually expects from Hollywood. On the other hand, what it achieves in avant-garde style, it loses to character development. If these are such great lovers, then why does Tommy (Jackman) always

seem irritated with Izzi (Weisz)? The two seem too wrapped up in their own spiritual journeys to possess the metaphysical connection that supposedly makes their love compelling and drives them both. The clever repetition of motifs, however, partially makes up for this deficit. The golden nebula, plant spores and gold artwork that show up in the various threads of the story connect them all in a manner you might expect from a painting or a poem — not a movie. The film’s many subtleties are impressive enough to make one wish it were a book, and the swelling, passionate musical score renders it both timeless and alien.

Though it falls far short of the artistic heights it could have reached, and lacks the spiritual dynamism it seems to claim, “The Fountain” offers a rare, innovative cinematic experience.

‘Kingdom’ fails as comeback album

‘KINGDOM’ from page B4

Pharrell, is one of Jay-Z’s career lows, and not just because of Usher.

The soulful “Lost One” features some of Jay’s best lyrics on the album and a smooth, memorable chorus sung by Chrisette Michele. He addresses the government’s disastrous response to Hurricane Katrina in “Minority Report,” but also raps about the underlying social conditions in America which seem only to have been exposed by the catastrophe.

Like most of Jay’s recent work, Beyonce is featured in one song, “Hollywood,” and the result is not as glaringly tawdry as their recent collaborations. This pleasant

surprise features Beyonce close to her best and reflects the difficulties of a paparazzi-filled life of fame, which Jay refers to as “the most addictive drug in the world.”

The album ends with one of the most interesting and unexpected musical collaborations conceivable, as the slow yet intense “Beach Chair” features production and background vocals by Coldplay’s Chris Martin. Unfortunately, this peculiar mélange falters and brings the album to a disappointing conclusion.

It is hard to guess whether this album falls short because of Jay’s own issues of disillusionment with the rap world, because of an attempt to make the album eclectic and appealing to a wider crowd or

simply due to a lack of motivation, but it clearly is a disappointment for fans of Jay-Z’s earlier work. He exhausts a great deal of energy reflecting on his experiences in rap and life, at times almost arrogantly articulating what separates him from some of the new faces of hip-hop. Rather than using his masterful poetic skill, which really is what separates him from the rest, Jay instead focuses on his maturation and affluence while simultaneously trying to appear humble. Despite a few notable bright spots, the result is largely a disappointment. Still, it is impossible to say that Jay-Z is not capable of another masterful album. It just seems to be a question of his own desire to do so.

‘Size 14’ is phat

‘SIZE 14’ from page B5

the book converge spectacularly to create a sensational, heart-pounding, page-turner of an ending. This tremendously well-written novel is as much a joy to read as any other of Cabot’s works; she never misses a mark.

In a recent phone interview, several of my peers and I had the opportunity to speak with Cabot about “Size 14 Is Not Fat Either.” The main idea behind the book is that of the quarter-life crisis, Cabot says, “I want to address ... the 20s-crisis — what are you doing with your life? That’s really what I’m trying to talk about, and throwing in a little murder.”

Cabot tends to base her characters on acquaintances from her own life, which is one of the reasons their personalities are so stunningly real. “I do kind of base my characters on people I know. The real challenge is, as somebody who wants to remain friends with those people, you don’t want them to be able to recognize themselves — particularly if you’re

writing about family members ... and I’ve actually been really lucky because so far I’ve managed to disguise everybody so well that no one’s quite recognized themselves, but most of the people in this book are kind of based on actual, real human beings. One way Cabot designs her characters is based on files of particularly hilarious or interesting people she kept while working in a dorm. Still, some characters are based on people more integral in her life: “Heather, obviously, is based on me, except sadly I was never a pop star.”

Like Heather, Cabot was a dorm director at New York University for several years

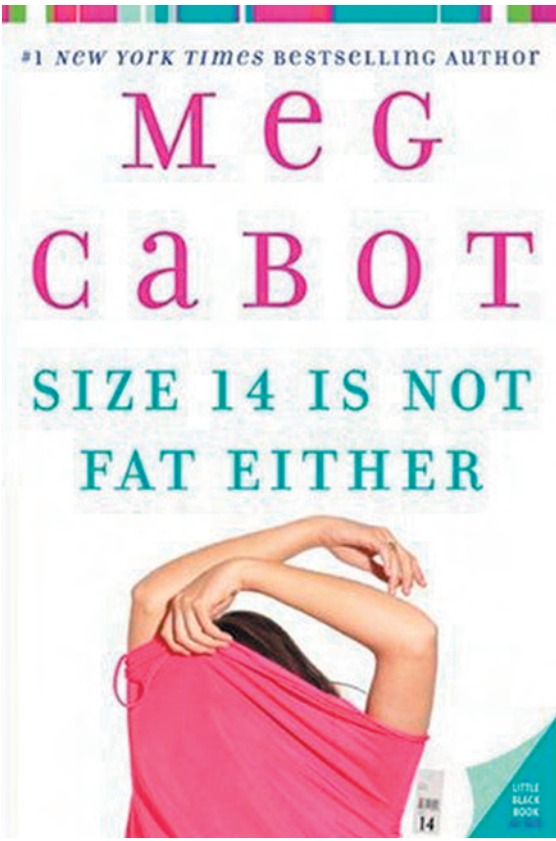
and draws upon her experiences at NYU and in the city itself while composing many aspects of the Heather Wells mysteries — including the crimes. While no murders ever occurred in the dorms during Cabot’s employment, the inspiration for the particularly grisly crime in “Size 14” came from the events surrounding a man named Dan Racowitz.

He “chop[ped] off the head of his roommate and boil[ed] it in a pot and [fed] her body to the homeless ... As a girl from the Midwest, that was the first big news story when I moved [to New York] and I was like, ‘Oh my God. I want to go back home;

this is insane’ — which is ironic because apparently a lot of serial killers come from the Midwest ... I actually originally had the part where the girl’s remains were made into the meatloaf in the cafeteria and I ended up taking it out because it really was too gruesome, so actually the inspiration is more grotesque than what actually happens in the book.”

With her very easily digestible style and definite flair for writing, Cabot’s popularity has skyrocketed and, to the delight of her fans, the author’s catalog is growing with it. “I’m starting to get popular, so my publishers are like, ‘We’ll take anything you’ve got,’ which is a great position to be in, but it can look like all you do is sit around and write ... I have, like, five books coming out next month.”

“Size 14” is a fantastic novel, filled with all the humor, style and intelligence that a great chick-lit book should have. Its originality will delight even the most jaded reader. Look for the third Heather Wells mystery, “Big Boned,” in January 2008.



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